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Shop owner warned over English Facebook posts

Fortin warns that OQLF scrutiny could increase

BRETT THOMS

SHAWVILLE Feb. 24, 2023

The owner of Boutique Shawville Shooz, Jill McBane, received a warning letter last week from Quebec's French language authority, the Office québécois de la langue française (OQLF), after publishing posts in English-only on her store's Facebook page.

Boutique Shawville Shooz is a shoe and accessory store on Shawville's Main Street.

The letter, which THE EQUITY obtained, notified McBane that the OQLF had received a complaint that Boutique Shawville Shooz was posting notices of a commercial nature on the store's Facebook page without including a French equivalent.

The letter advised McBane to publish all commercial notices in French along with English going forward. The letter did not outline any fine or punishment, however, it did say that this complaint would be considered in the event of a new violation.

McBane said she will do her best to comply with the warning but was outraged by it.

"Whether you speak French or German or English or Spanish, it doesn't matter. You should be allowed to speak whatever language you choose," McBane said. "They tend to pick on Shawville because we're an English-speaking community. I have a lot of French customers, and quite frankly, they are my best customers. And we have absolutely no problem communicating at all."

Businesses in Shawville have a history of clashing with the OQLF, with notable incidents drawing national attention with the OQLF inspectors.

"It's time our government starts standing up for us," said McBane. "I don't have a problem with bilingualism, I really don't. But when they tell you that you have to speak French it's just wrong. We're an anglophone community. We've been here since the 1800s."

As of the 2021 Statistics Canada census, of Shawville's 1215 residents, 1,050 identified as anglophone and 150 as francophone. Ten residents identified having both English and French as their primary languages.

Of the MRC Pontiac's municipalities, every town except Île-du-Grand-Calumet, Mansfield-et-Pontefract and Fort-Coulonge are majority anglophone.

“The CAQ government's investment of \$100 million in additional yearly funding to the OQLF means that there are a considerable amount of new inspectors that will be overseeing compliance with Bill 101 and Bill 96. As a direct consequence of this, it seems likely that government inspectors will, in the coming months, be looking into a number of area businesses and government services.

Pontiac MLA Andre Fortin

According to the letter, which was only written in French, an investigation found that Boutique Shawville Shooz's Facebook posts violated Article 52 of the Charter of the French Language, the provincial legislation governing language in Quebec, which states:

"Regardless of the medium used, catalogues, brochures, folders, commercial directories, order forms, and any other documents of the same nature that are available to the public must be drawn up in French. No person may make such a document available to the public in a language other than French if the French version is not available on terms that are at least as favourable."

CONTINUED ON PAGE THREE



Jill McBane behind the counter at Boutique Shawville Shooz. She has ran the business for four years and has never had a previous issue with the OQLF.

Brett Thoms THE EQUITY



Richard Theoret stands with his beloved plane, which he flew from Cornwall to attend the event.

Connor Lalande THE EQUITY

Airshow draws crowds, despite wintry conditions

CONNOR LALANDE

PONTIAC Feb. 25, 2023

The 33rd edition of Mo's FLY-IN airshow took place on Saturday, with local community members and tourists alike flocking to the Pontiac Aerodrome to get an up-close and personal view of the airplanes and helicopters that landed at the airstrip just east of Quyon throughout the day.

Though cold weather and snow squalls grounded some pilots, resulting in fewer airplanes and helicopters than are usually present at the event, some still managed to brave the conditions and put on a show for attendees.

The event was hosted by flying enthusiast and COPA (Canadian Owners and Pilots Association) chapter 169 President Maurice Prud'homme. According to Prud'homme, who has himself been flying for nearly 40 years, the event is usually hosted on the Ottawa River ice near his home. Due to unseasonably warm temperatures and thin ice however, the decision was made to host the event at the Pontiac Aerodrome.

"The river ice is getting worse," said Prud'homme. "A lot of people were afraid of breaking through the ice, and so we made the decision to

move the event."

Prud'homme added it was a beautiful venue and he was glad to see the more than 200 people who had come out enjoying themselves.

Aside from the opportunity to marvel at airplanes and helicopters, attendees could also enjoy several food options including hot dogs, chili, chips and donuts.

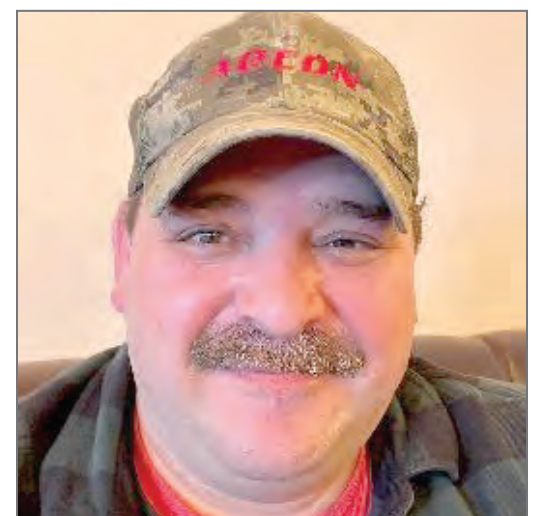
Richard Theoret, a pilot who had flown his plane from Cornwall to attend, said he was happy for any excuse to fly and that the event was great for families.

"It's fun to come out here, show people what we do and hopefully inspire an interest in aviation," Theoret said.

Local resident Christine Clarke said she was glad to see events like these in the region and does what she can to support them.

"It brings tourism to our area, which is great," Clarke said. "It lets people experience Ouyon, and show all that we have to offer."

COPA, an aviation advocacy organization, has a stated mission to "advance, promote, and preserve the Canadian freedom to fly," according to a brochure passed out at the event.



Fort-Coulonge's newest councillor, Dave Héroult.

File photo

Elected by four votes

CONNOR LALANDE

FORT-COULONGE Feb. 26, 2023

Dave Héroult was elected as the newest councillor for the Municipality of Fort-Coulonge in a by-election that took place on Feb. 26. The seat became vacant in November of last year after the passing of former councillor Lucie Bertrand.

The election was close, with Héroult defeating opponent Freeda Béchamp-Graveline by a vote margin of 196 to 192.

Centuries-old-white pines felled in Fort-Coulonge

PIERRE CYR

FORT-COULONGE Feb. 27, 2023

Some residents of Fort-Coulonge were surprised to see that five healthy historical white pines were cut down on Jan. 26 and 27. The five pines were located just in front of the Bagg House (224 Chemin du Pont Rouge) along what is known as "Allée des Manoirs". The removal of trees was controversial for some, as the pines were approximately between 200 and 300 years old. White pines are considered historically significant in the Pontiac due to their association with the forestry industry.

Representatives of the Municipality of Fort-Coulonge say they awarded the contract to cut them down in order to protect the sewer system that runs under the street in front of where the trees stood.

Neither the owners of the Bagg House nor the broader public was consulted about the decision.

THE EQUITY met with Fort-Coulonge officials to discuss the decision. The Mayor of Fort-Coulonge, Christine Francoeur, stated that she and her team were sad to have taken the decision but they didn't have a choice.

Francoeur and municipal employees explained that in 2016, an evaluation of the municipal water and sewer

infrastructure revealed a problem with root encroachment in the 35-meter-long section of sewer located just in front of the five centuries-old white pines.

In 2022, the problems became more serious, restricting the capacity of the sewage pumping station located just east of the trees.

The water utility management company Veolia inspected the pipe with the help of cameras and proceeded with a partial and temporary cleaning of it early last fall.

Following discussions with the firm and a feasibility analysis of the work, the decision to clear the trees was made in a unanimous vote by the Fort-Coulonge Council at the October 5, 2021 public meeting. A \$12,000 contract for the removal of the trees and stumps was awarded to an entrepreneur.

Officials say that after analyzing the situation, the cost of redoing the section of sewer involved would have been close to \$1 million. Another issue related to the inability to provide an emergency bypass for fire and ambulance services was also considered as these vehicles cannot travel on the old Félix-Gabriel-Marchand bridge in Mansfield.

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO



What remains of the White Pines in front of the Bagg House after the trees were cut down last month.

Pierre Cyr THE EQUITY

OQLF warning over English Facebook posts

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

McBane also expressed anger over the expenditure of tax dollars going towards OQLF targeting businesses like hers.

"We pay them, they're not paying us," McBane said about anglophone businesses. "They're not paying my rent here. They're not paying for my phone. When they start paying my bills, then they can tell me what to do."

She brought the current state of the Pontiac Hospital as an example of what she viewed as misallocated tax money.

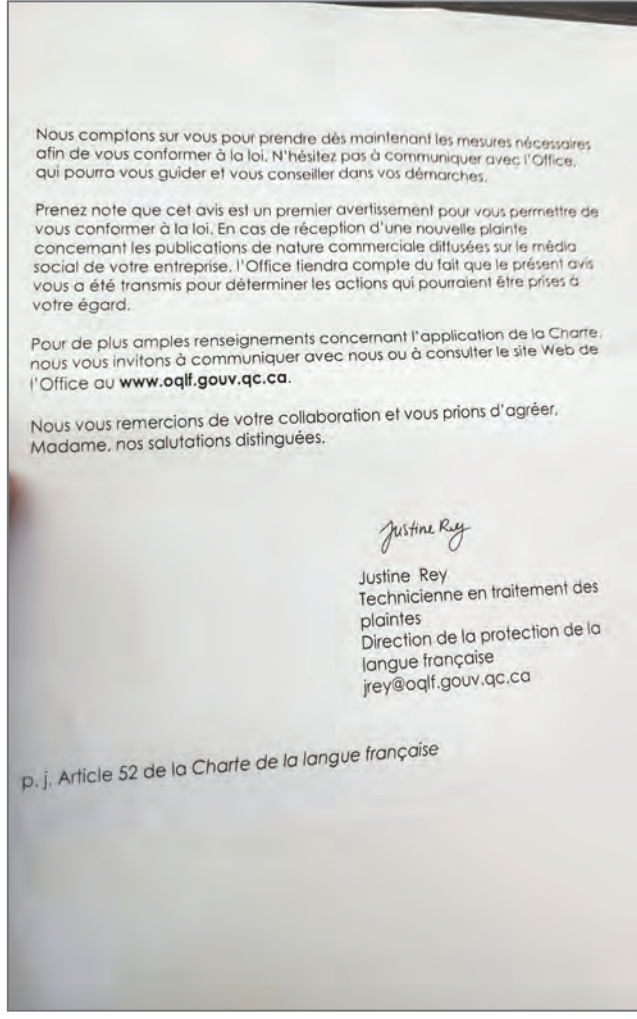
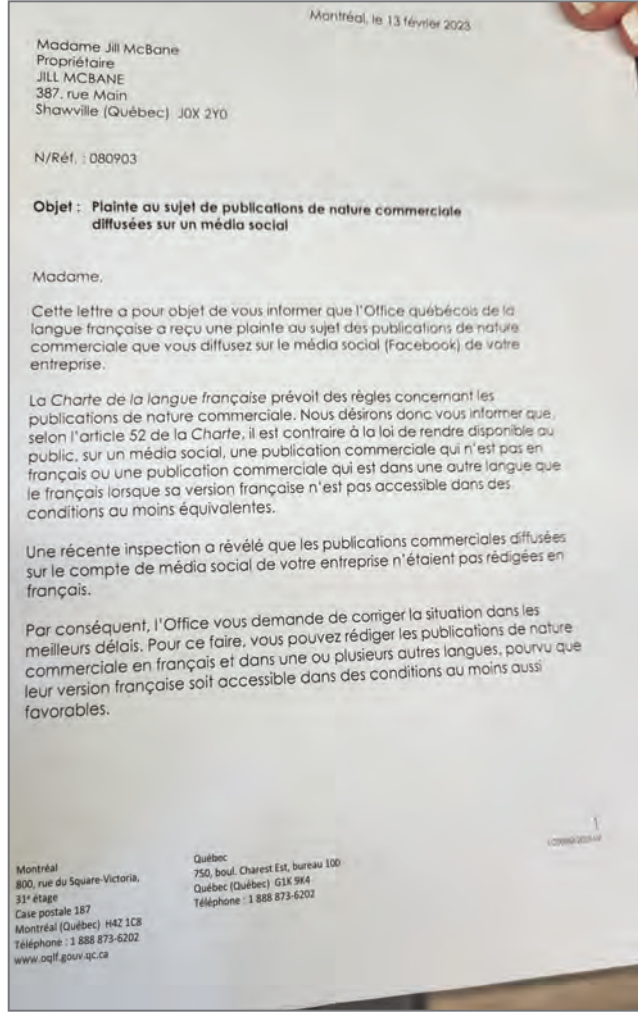
"It is such a waste of money, they've hired so many people to go after all our small businesses," McBane said. "Our healthcare is in deep trouble right now. Why are they not using those funds to work on something worthwhile? We need health care here, never mind this pettiness. This is ridiculous."

President of the Pontiac Chamber of Commerce, Sébastien Bonnerot, said he has personal experience of the OQLF making business difficult, which he would have more to say about later. As for now he wants to consult with MNA André Fortin about the implications of the letter.

When asked for comment from Fortin's office, he clarified that this regulation stems from Bill 101, not Bill 96. He added that businesses in Montreal have been subject to warnings in relation to their social media posts.

"While there are many implications for businesses of Bill 96, it did not specifically change any of the requirements on promotions (online or in store)," wrote Fortin. "However, the CAQ government's investment of \$100 million in additional yearly funding to the OQLF means that there are a considerable amount of new inspectors that will be overseeing compliance with Bill 101 and Bill 96. As a direct consequence of this, it seems likely that government inspectors will, in the coming months, be looking into a number of area businesses and government services."

McBane does not know who submitted the complaint. Since posting notices that she received the letter on Facebook, the post received 92 comments, the vast majority of which are supportive.



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Chatel responds to questions on federal language and gun bills

BRETT THOMS
PONTIAC February 28 2023

MP Sophie Chatel responded to questions from THE EQUITY on the drama surrounding amendments to the Official Language Act (Bill C-13) in parliament and the current status of the Liberal Government's gun control legislation.

Controversy over Bill C-13 relates to the assertive stance some federal Liberal MPs representing anglophone areas in Montreal have taken toward proposed amendments to the OLA referencing Quebec's French Language Charter, itself recently modified by Bill 96.

In short, the Montreal Liberal MPs are warning that some amendments introduced by the Bloc Québécois and the Conservative Party of Canada are a threat to Anglo-Quebecer rights.

THE EQUITY asked a series of questions about the bill to Chatel, which she responded to by email.

Bill C-13

Question: What is the general position on Bill C-13? Do any specific amendments concern you?

Answer: Bill C-13 is very important for all Canadians and, as such, it concerns all Canadians. The statistics are clear: French is in decline everywhere across Canada, including in Quebec. As the federal government, we have a responsibility to protect and promote both of our official languages across the country. Bill C-13 does so by protecting the right to receive federal government services in English or in French anywhere in Canada, including in Quebec; which is very positive for the English-speaker communities in Quebec.

Question: Do you think the legislation in its most recent incarnation represents a threat to Anglophone rights in Quebec?

Answer: Our government will always work to make sure both of our official languages are protected. With Bill C-13, we are both protecting French everywhere in Canada, and protecting the English-speaking community in Quebec, for example by ensuring that they will receive federal government services in the official language of their choice in Québec, and francophone communities across Canada.

Question: What is your position on the opposition to Bill C-13 expressed by some Liberal MPs representing Montreal?

Answer: Our government is modernizing the Official Languages Act because we understand that we need to protect and promote French everywhere in the country, including in Quebec, while also defending the rights of official language minority communities across Canada.

Question: Have your constituents expressed any concern about Bill C-13 to you? If so, what are those concerns?

Answer: Francophones are concerned about the decline of French and, indeed, the statistics show how French is in decline everywhere across Canada, including in Quebec. Anglophones that have written to me have empathy for the decline of French, and many think that it is important to protect French in Canada, but they are concerned about the Québec legislation going too far (Québec Bill 96). Federal Bill C-13 will protect, for its part, the right of Canadians to receive federal government services in the official language of their choice.

Question: More generally, does this legislation reflect the challenges in representing a bilingual riding? Are there difficulties reconciling the concerns of both your anglophone and francophone constituents?

Answer: Alongside the Algonquin language, the riding of Pontiac's

history and identity are deeply rooted in our two official languages, English and French. Canada's linguistic reality has changed a great deal since the introduction of the Official Languages Act more than 50 years ago: English is the dominant language in digital technologies and on social media and broadcasting platforms, while French is in decline, in Pontiac, Quebec and across Canada. Francophone communities are concerned about the future of their language and culture. The federal government will achieve real equality between our two official languages by acting with its jurisdiction to protect and promote French, while also defending our official language minority communities, which is important for Anglophone communities of Pontiac.

Gun Control Bill

THE EQUITY also posed questions to Chatel on her position on the Liberal Government's gun control legislation (Bill C-21). Controversy from this bill mostly stems from hunters' and farmers' fear that some recently withdrawn amendments to the bill targeting guns that carry more than five rounds in the magazine went too far in restricting their access to firearms for legitimate purposes.

Question: What is your general take on the current state of Bill C-21?

Answer: All Canadians deserve to be safe in their communities, which is why we are advancing policies to address gun violence, such as Bill C-21.

But in doing so, it is essential to respect our proud Canadian traditions such as hunting, which is a way of life for communities across the country. This is why we will continue our discussions with hunters, trappers and Indigenous communities; in order to get this right. We will take the time to find the right balance and see this process through. At the end of the day, this is about addressing gun violence while respecting our values and traditions, and creating – together – safer communities for all Canadians.

In 2022, we tabled Bill C-21, which includes a national handgun freeze and more. On this occasion, we are committed to advancing a clear, standard definition of what constitutes an assault-style firearm – something that industry, advocates and the gun community have long called for. Amendments G-4 and G-46 attempted to close this gap. But Canadians, including many in the riding of Pontiac, expressed legitimate concerns about the need for further consultation and debate. As the chair of the rural caucus, I worked closely with the Public Safety Minister (who came to Gracefield to meet with hunters and sport-shooters of the community and discuss Bill C-21) and the Liberal members of the Public Safety committee to study these recent amendments. Recently, the Liberal members of the Public Safety committee withdrew amendments G-4 and G-46: so that we can take the time to listen to those Canadians at the heart of this debate.

I am very grateful to the many people who took the time to share their stories and perspectives with us. It is through such dialogue and teamwork that we will find the right balance.

Question: Do you think concerns from hunters and rural people were represented in the recent changes to the proposed bill?

Answer: As the chair of the rural caucus, I was part of the discussions leading to the withdrawal of amendments G-4 and G-46 to take more time to listen to hunters and rural people. Hunting is a tradition in many Canadian communities. That's why hunting weapons

will always be allowed - we'll make sure of that. From Gracefield to Yellowknife, the Minister of Public Safety, Marco Mendicino, meets with hunters to hear their concerns firsthand. Bill C-21 is a balancing act. We are also actively consulting with Aboriginal groups to ensure that their voices are heard and that their treaty rights are respected.

Question: Are still amendments and changes that you think still need to be made?

Answer: Bill C-21 is a balancing act. We will get it right, so that responsible gun owners can keep their hunting guns, while enhancing community safety.

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Spaghetti supper raises \$5,000 for local family

BRETT THOMS
SHAWVILLE Feb. 23, 2023

The McDowell Home and School Committee organized a community spaghetti supper to support the family of Jennifer Rivet-Butler, a Shawville mother who passed away recently, leaving behind seven children.

The supper ended up fundraising an even \$5,000, which was donated to the Butler family.

"The turnout was incredible and exceeded our expectations, over 200 dinners were served, selling out in just over 30 mins. The generosity of the community was incredible and the donation jar was overflowing," wrote Samantha Coles of the McDowell Home and School committee.

The supper was organized in just two weeks and contributions of material and labour from various community groups and businesses made the fundraiser possible, according to Coles. Contributing organizations include: Café 349, Shawville Giant Tiger, The Shawville Lions Club, The Womens UCW, Cartridges and The Pontiac Home Bakery.

"We truly have the most amazing community," Coles concluded.



People line up to be served at the McDowell Elementary School gym during the fundraiser to support the Butler family.

THE EQUITY
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Gavan's Bar open for business, St. Patrick's tradition lives on

SOPHIE KUIJPER DICKSON
QUYON February 27, 2023

A new era has begun for Quyon's infamous watering hole and live music venue, and under new ownership.

Jim Cain, of Quyon's Cain family, bought Gavan's Hotel in December, and has a vision for helping it become the magnetic hub he knew it to be in his childhood.

The purchase came after Cain heard rumours that previous owner Nick Matechuk would consider selling the business, after nearly 40 years of ownership.

Matechuk bought the iconic tavern in 1983 from Lennox and Marguerite Gavan, who themselves purchased the hotel in 1947. After a large fire, the Gavans rebuilt the hotel in the early 1950s and added what's now known as the Shamrock Lounge in 1961.

"It has historically been not just a place for people to go for a beer and listen to music, it's been a destination for the region," Cain said. "We want to be bringing all those people back to town for events and music and great food."

Cain said this means reinvigorating the hotel's Shamrock Lounge, a project he has already started with the building of a new stage.

He is also in the process of redesigning the menu and has hired a chef with Michelin-star experience to help him do so.

"We're not building bougie food. He's coming in to help us develop a menu that has an emphasis on good pub-style food," Cain said.

"But any time we can do something fresh, instead of freezer bag, we're doing it. Anytime we can work with a local supplier, as opposed to a big, faceless company, we're going to do that."

For Cain, this means homemade bread, onion rings using freshly cut onions, and smash burgers instead of the burger patty typical to fast food joints.

Most importantly, though, Cain's vision for Gavan's will include more live music.

"We heard from a lot of people in the Pontiac that they thought [Gavan's] had closed years ago because there weren't as many events happening, and there wasn't as much promotion," Cain said.

He plans to make major investments in bringing more artists to the stage, as



Submitted photo, Jim Cain.

Jim Cain (left) and Nick Matechuk celebrate Matechuk's sale of Gavan's Hotel to Cain in December. Pictured here at Gavan's Hotel.

well as in staffing and visibility to support these events.

St. Patrick's Day tradition lives on
Cain did not miss a beat with starting this work. For the past month and half, the hotel has been hosting live music shows every Saturday night.

But he is most excited that the legendary St. Patrick's Day festivities, which Covid-19 shut down last year, will be taking the stage once again in the hotel's Shamrock Lounge.

As per tradition, Gavan's will host the event the weekend prior to the Irish holiday. This year it will be on March 12.

Cain said Ottawa Valley country music singer Gail Gavan has been instrumental in bringing this event together.

She is the youngest child of the hotel's original owners, and grew up performing on the stage.

Gavan said she was relieved to see the

hotel go to local hands.

"It's going to breath fresh air into it again."

With Gavan's help, Cain has organized an entire slate of performances, including step dancing, acts from across the region, and an appearance from Gavan herself.

Cain is also planning for the event to be his opportunity to meet the community as the hotel's new owner.

"That'll be the actual day where I can say: 'Hello, we're the Cain family. Nice to meet you.'"

Also new this year will be what Cain is calling the 'Drown the Shamrock' party, to be hosted the Sunday following St. Patrick's Day, which will feature even more live music, for those who have not yet had their fill.

Part of a bigger picture
Cain's vision doesn't end there. Eventually he hopes to revive the hotel's

rooms so that it becomes a destination vacation spot rather than simply a place to sleep after a night at the bar.

He plans to work with other local tourism operators and service providers to create weekend experience packages, like a snowshoeing package or a sugar bush package, that draw people from outside the region.

"We want to be partnering with everybody who provides services in the region and create that rising tide that lifts all boats," Cain said.

Most important to Cain, though, is to preserve the hotel's authenticity.

"This isn't some corporate guy from out of town who's trying to make money off the region," Cain said. "Investing in the town of Quyon is always something that I wanted to figure out a way to participate in. To me, Gavan's is part of the heart of the community."



Alina Holmes THE EQUITY

The Ski Pontiac board holding a meeting.

Big Changes for Ski Pontiac

ALINA HOLMES

PONTIAC February 25, 2023

After a somewhat tumultuous start to the season, Ski Pontiac held its Annual General Meeting last Saturday at Astra Estates in Bristol, the new home to its popular ski and snowshoe trails. They reported one of the most successful moonlight skis in Ski Pontiac's history, with over a hundred visitors enjoying the trails.

Last year the partnership between Ski Pontiac and Pine Lodge dissolved, shortly after completing development on new trails throughout the property. Ski Pontiac is grateful to Astra Estates for agreeing to host trails this season, although this change has not been without its challenges. The group had invested a substantial amount of labour into the trails, and are hesitant to do the same at the new location.

"Developing the trails was a significant amount of labour," President Arianne Clouthier explained. "The board needs to seriously consider if we would enter into another joint grant

funding application".

John Edelman, co-owner of Astra Estates, suggested that he hopes a partnership with Ski Pontiac is something that they will be able to develop well into the future, expanding current trails onto the over 100 acres of forested land on their property. "We hope we can build that partnership (with Ski Pontiac) as well," said Edelman. "We want to be good stewards of the land and good partners in the community".

Looking towards the future, Ski Pontiac is hoping to partner once again with Ski at School, a non-profit organization that provides skis and lessons to trail users. They would like to add a senior ski club, and will continue with their mandate to groom ski and snowshoe trails for public use. They are hopeful more volunteers will join their ranks, helping to bring the winter sport to the community. "We rely on volunteers," said Clouthier. "If people approach us with an idea, we are there to support". Trails remain open to the public so long as weather permits.

Bryson recreational committee recognized for efforts

CONNOR LALANDE

BRYSON March 1, 2023

The Municipality of Bryson has been recognized by Loisir Sport Outaouais as the recreational Committee of the Year for 2022.

Loisir Sport Outaouais, an organization with the stated mission of "stimulating regional development in recreation, sports and the outdoors", acknowledged Bryson's recreational committee in a report highlighting achievements in a variety of leisure categories over the course of 2022.

The report emphasized innovations and initiatives put in place by the committee to better serve the municipality.

"In particular," the statement translated into English reads, "they conducted a survey to understand the needs of citizens in the planning of public spaces. They organized a great celebration for the passage of the new year, an activity that attracted more than a hundred people, as well as set up a committee to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the municipality."

Meghan Griffin, a volunteer on the Bryson recreational committee, stated the recognition from Loisir Sport Outaouais means a lot as people from a variety of local organizations have worked hard to provide opportunities for fun and community involvement within the Municipality of Bryson.

"In a lot of our small municipalities, we're not in big cities where we have employees hired

to run activities and coordinate events," Griffin said. "So, I think it's the leadership of volunteer committees that really show development and progress and bring a lot of life to the town."

Bryson Municipal Councillor, Joanne Ralston, believes Loisir Sport Outaouais's recognition is important validation of the time consuming work the recreational association and other local organizations do in providing community members with accessible and impactful recreational opportunities.

"We're blown away with all the work that has been done," said Ralston, speaking to council's support for the committee. "If it wasn't for these organizations, I don't think our municipalities would thrive as well."

Not content to rest on their laurels, the recreational association and the municipality have plans to install new recreational infrastructure and coordinate new events throughout the upcoming year. According to Griffin, a number of new recreational facilities are being installed including an accessibility mat at the Bryson Beach that has been purchased in conjunction with Les Maisons des jeunes du Pontiac and a rock-climbing wall that is being established in collaboration with the municipality.

Examples of other categories included within the Loisir Sport Outaouais report were Leisure Event of the Year, Sports Organization of the Year and Leisure Initiative of the Year.

White pines felled in Coulonge

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

Director General of Fort-Coulonge, Naomie Rivet, indicated that she felt the administration has done everything by the book.

The Municipality of Fort-Coulonge does not have any specific by-law in place to regulate the cutting of trees on its territory.

The item "Pruning" appeared on the agenda of the October 5, 2022 council meeting at 7 p.m. This agenda was published on the website and Facebook earlier the same day. The minutes of this meeting, which were not available on the town's website, make no mention of the location of the pruning operation, the reasons behind the decision or the historical significance of the trees.

The population was informally made aware of the cutting of the heritage pines during an interview with Francoeur on

CHIP-FM on October 19.

Some residents of Fort-Coulonge and Mansfield-et-Pontefract, who are normally up to date with local issues, told THE EQUITY they weren't aware of the decision and felt the council should have been more proactive in communicating their intentions.

Francoeur said she hadn't considered using the lumber from the trees in some kind of art installation, which in hindsight would have been a positive way to recognize the heritage the trees represent.

In a historical irony, Dr. Haddon Bagg, who had his medical practice at the Bagg House, was a fervent defender of heritage, according to Benoit Paré's book: *Fort-Coulonge: Pour mieux connaître son histoire*. In 1964, Bagg was the main opponent to the destruction of the Félix-Gabriel Marchand Bridge that the town of Mansfield-et-Pontefract wanted to undertake. Today that bridge is a Pontiac landmark.



The pines just before the cutting operation.

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AVIS PUBLIC ASSEMBLÉE PUBLIQUE DE CONSULTATION PROJET DE RÈGLEMENT N°06-11-2022

OTTER LAKE QC

PUBLIC NOTICE OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETING DRAFT REGULATION N°06-11-2022

AVIS PUBLIC est donné aux personnes intéressées par un projet de Règlement relatif à la démolition et protection des immeubles patrimoniaux que :

1. Lors d'une séance tenue le 21 février 2023, le conseil municipal a adopté le projet de règlement n°06-11-2022 intitulé « Règlement relatif à la démolition et protection des immeubles patrimoniaux n°06-11-2022 ».

2. Une assemblée publique de consultation aura lieu le 15 mars 2023 de 15h-19h, au bureau municipale situé au 15, avenue Palmer. Cette assemblée a pour but d'expliquer le projet de règlement. Au cours de cette assemblée, la Municipalité expliquera le projet de règlement et entendra les personnes et organismes qui désirent s'exprimer exclusivement sur les modifications apportées au règlement.

3. Ce projet de règlement a pour but de régir la démolition d'un immeuble patrimonial. Il confie au comité de démolition le pouvoir d'autoriser ou de refuser une demande qui lui est soumise.

4. Le projet de règlement peut être consulté par communiquer avec la directrice générale 819-453-7049 afin d'obtenir une copie de ce projet.

5. Le projet de règlement ne contient aucune disposition propre à un règlement susceptible d'approbation référendaire.

Donné à Otter Lake, ce 1 mars 2023
Andrea Lafleur, Directrice générale

PUBLIC NOTICE is given to persons interested in a draft by-law relating to the demolition and protection of heritage buildings that:

1. During a meeting held on February 21, 2023, the municipal council adopted draft by-law no. 06-11-2022 entitled "By-law relating to the demolition and protection of heritage buildings no. 06-11-2022."

2. A public consultation meeting will be held on March 15, 2023 from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., at the municipal office located at 15 Palmer Avenue. The purpose of this meeting is to explain the draft by-law. During this meeting, the Municipality will explain the draft by-law and will hear the people and organizations who wish to express themselves exclusively on the modifications made to the by-law.

3. The purpose of this draft by-law is to govern the demolition of a heritage building. It gives the demolition committee the power to authorize or refuse a request submitted to it.

4. The draft by-law can be viewed by contacting the Director General at 819-453-7049 to obtain a copy of this draft.

5. The draft by-law does not contain any provision specific to a by-law subject to referendum approval.

Given at Otter Lake, this March 1, 2023
Andrea Lafleur, Director General

Editorial

Taking a stand

The recent stand taken by several Montreal area MPs against proposed amendments to Canada's Official Languages Act is encouraging.

Anthony Housefather, the MP for Mount Royal, and several fellow Liberals are taking issue with amendments proposed by the Bloc Québécois and the Conservative Party that would see the federal language policy defer to Quebec's French Language Charter. As Housefather points out, this would effectively lend credence to the aims of Bill 96, which recently amended the Charter in ways that would reduce access to English services in Quebec.

The fact that Housefather and other federal MPs who represent some of Quebec's anglophone ridings are raising a stink about the bill, despite opposition from some within their own party, is a positive development for the rights of Quebec's anglophones and for democracy itself. In light of the federal government's failure to defend constitutionally-guaranteed language rights in Quebec, it's good to see some public action.

In addition to concerns that the amendments may erode Anglo-Quebecers' access to federal services in English, Housefather warns that by recognizing changes made by Bill 96, while simultaneously challenging the law in court, the federal government would be sending a mixed message that the CAQ justice minister could easily exploit in the upcoming legal battle over the legislation.

Regardless of where these amendments may eventually lead, it's crucial in the meantime that voices at the federal level raise the alarm over the Quebec government's disregard toward some of the province's minority populations, and press for protections.

Ultimately, given the political realities of the province, if salvation is going to come from anywhere, it will have to be from the federal level. Whether Housefather and his allies can convince the Liberal Party of Canada to take a firmer stand on anglo rights in Quebec remains an open question, given the party's apparent strategic gambit of avoiding a showdown with nationalist sentiment in the province.

But the fact that the MPs are trying is good in itself. In a political system where power has gradually been taken away from rank and file MPs and concentrated increasingly in the hands of party leaders and senior bureaucrats, individual MPs asserting themselves on behalf of their constituents is a great development.

In some other countries with a Westminster parliamentary tradition, prime ministers can be seen to be more beholden to their backbenchers. Not the case in Canada. Here, political scientists generally regard it as the democracy with the strongest prime ministers and, correspondingly, the weakest MPs. MPs asserting themselves is one way of reversing this trend and making our politics a little more accountable.

As Anglo-Quebecers face growing uncertainty over their place in the province, to the extent that a one-person shoe shop can get a warning letter over the language used in its social media posts, we need to demand stronger action from our elected representatives. It's good that some are rising to the occasion.

Brett Thoms

The Parents' Voice

By Shelley Heaphy

March break science

If you're lucky enough to have some time at home with your child during March Break, you may have already planned a few things to do together. If you do plan on some at home time, think about incorporating some simple, fun science experiments into your day.

Science is one of those things that I always forget to plan to do but when reminded by my oldest daughter, we always have the most fun. There are tons and tons of simple ideas for all ages of kids. Below are a few ideas for parents and children to explore.

Little Kids

Mixing colours is one of the easiest ways to teach children new colours. Whether you use paint or food colouring allow them to mix some new colours together and record your results.

You can do this on paper with a paintbrush or on snow with your hands. Whatever way you decide they are sure to enjoy watching colours mix. Record which colours are used to create new colours and post it up in their room. They will be so proud of themselves.

Sink and Float

Collect some materials from around the house such as coins, toy cars, spoon, plastic toy, empty bottle, full bottle with a cap on it, small figurine, etc. fill a large bowl with water and sit together at the table.

Have your child predict which items will float and which items will sink and then test each item. Record the results and check to see which ones they guessed correctly. Discuss why heavier items will sink to the bottom and other items will float. Watch them experiment with this on their own at bath time.

CONTINUED ON PAGE FIVE



Dave Moore THE EQUITY

Foggy day

Out standing in his field

by Chris Judd

Safety versus greed

For as long as there were jobs to do, there was a balance between doing them the safest way, or the fastest and most economical way. Eve didn't spend enough time thinking about the consequence before giving Adam the apple.

Animals are big and heavy and can be dangerous if cornered, but usually taking time to think out and prepare the safest way to handle them is not the fastest and cheapest way. The smartest animal handlers always look for the fastest and safest escape route before beginning to handle an animal.

When the Titanic was still on the drawing board of the engineer, it was known that a look of luxury and opulence was the final goal, from the exterior appearance to the quality of the dinnerware and comfort of the chairs no expense was spared. However, when it became evident that the ship was sinking, not only were there not enough lifeboats, but it became obvious that there was not even enough tackle on board to launch the lifeboats. This was a blatant example of greed over safety, when more money was spent on the appearance of luxury than the safety of the people on board.

During the 40 plus years that I represented local farmers in various farm organizations, I became very aware that farming was the most dangerous occupation in the country.

Several years ago, on a Sunday afternoon, I sat down at the kitchen table with a blank sheet of paper and started writing down the names of people who I knew who died in a farm accident. When I had written down 50 names, I was sur-

prised. After the list of deaths added up to 100, I was very moved that so many of our local residents had died from farm accidents.

Farm deaths where farm machinery was involved deserved extra attention. In some cases, safety shields had not been replaced when damaged or it was just easier and faster to hook up equipment without the safety shield. These cases were not because of the farmer's intention to get rich. Newer equipment came equipped with a better designed and easier to put on shields. Some companies even replaced without charge a damaged safety shield. Some larger more expensive self-propelled equipment and tractors came with dangerous design flaws. Some of these machines used hydraulic power steering and brakes which only worked while the engine was running to power the hydraulic pump. When the engine stalled or ran out of fuel there were no brakes and no steering. If this happened while driving on a steep incline or hill, the resulting accident was either expensive or fatal.

Many of those very reliable, old machines that were manufactured 60 years ago are still used every day across North America. Most farmers organizations have a member on the Canadian Farm Safety Board. That board meets regularly with farm machinery manufacturers to help improve the safety of all machines used on farms. Although most large tractors and machines now come equipped with a roll over protection bar or an optional roll protection cab, and a seat belt to keep the driver from being thrown out and possibly crushed in case of a roll over. In some provinces used tractors must have a certified roll bar installed before it can be resold. Although many farm accidents involve some form of machinery, most farm accidents could be prevented by just taking that extra second to think before moving. A new law has just been passed in Quebec that

requires every farm with one or more part-time or full-time employee to have one person dedicated to be in charge of safety on that farm. All the rules will be made available to every farm. Watch for upcoming farm meetings where more information will be available.

Every time that a farm related fatality occurs, there is a thorough investigation done on that farm. I was told by one of these investigators that the reason of the investigative visit is to determine if anything could have been done to prevent the fatal accident before it happened. If anything could have been done to prevent the accident, the next job of the investigator is to lay blame to whoever is responsible and if found guilty, a very large fine is levied.

The world is now faced with the largest, most important case of safety versus greed ever. Although there are still many climate deniers, the world scientists and climatologists and most of the world's population are very concerned about stopping and reversing the heating up of our climate PDQ. Everyone is entitled to their opinion on how bad it is. Everyone is also entitled to learn all they can about how bad it is and what must be done to ensure a world where future generations can keep living in and enjoying.

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



Letters

Meddling

Dear Editor,

Jane Toller's piece on her desire to have the Municipality of Pontiac leave the MRC des Collines and join the MRC Pontiac is, in my view, inappropriate meddling. She does not represent or speak for the residents of the MoP and certainly should not be lobbying the MRC des Collines to go along with a change. The decision to switch MRCs should be a decision of the MoP residents and council.

I would also remind Toller that the MoP is much bigger than Quyon and that residents' views on merging with her MRC will no doubt vary. One question those promoting the switch need to clearly answer is why would the MoP leave one of the richest MRCs to join one of the poorest?

Kevin Brady, Luskville, Que.

Impressed

Dear Editor,

I am a woman in her seventh decade, a Canadian citizen, but not born here. I too was concerned when the Emergencies Act was invoked. That it immediately triggered an inquiry gave me some comfort in our democracy.

As I watched the inquiry I was impressed with Justice Rouleau's patience, knowledge and fairness. I was impressed that the federal government waived cabinet privilege so the citizenry saw relevant notes, texts and transcripts of cell phone conversations while in the process of deciding whether or not to invoke the act.

I am not worried that a future government would invoke this act lightly.

Leila Nulty, Thorne, Que.

The Way We Were

Compiled by Bonnie Chevrier

Feb. 25, 1998

25 Years Ago

Minor injuries only in accident: When Sue Yach felt the passenger bus she was riding in flip over and slide down an embankment, all she could think of was last summer's bus accident near Quebec City when 43 seniors were killed.

Fortunately for the Pontiac passengers and their driver, trees stopped the sliding bus and a tragedy was averted.

On Feb. 18, the driver of Transport Thom's commuter bus from Fort Coulonge to Hull was approaching the four lanes on Hwy 148 at around 6:50 a.m.

Lt. Martin Dompierre, of the MRC des Collines' public security says heavy winds and slippery road conditions caused the driver to lose control. Those on board climbed through the broken front windshield to get out. All were taken to hospital for observation. Although nearly everyone suffered from bumps and bruises, and some from cracked bones, all were released from hospital the same day, according to Transport Thom president Antonio Thom.

Hero of the ice storm: A Fort Coulonge man has been honoured by the Ottawa Citizen as a hero of January's ice storm.

Bert Marion and about 1,400 other heroes were feted at the Ottawa Civic Centre Feb. 12. The heroes received T-shirts and enjoyed a seafood dinner and live entertainment.

Marion says the people of Fort Coulonge were generous, donating 375 cords of dry firewood, 15 tons of food products and two to three tons of clothes and sundry items. In addition, the Stone Container pulp mill donated about \$7,000 worth of paper products, including coffee cups, plates, napkins and toilet paper.

As well, an account was opened at the Caisse Populaire and close to \$5,000 has been collected.

Feb. 28, 1973

50 Years Ago

Four complete rockathon at Campbell's Bay Carnival: The Campbell's Bay Recreation Association Winter Carnival was held on Feb. 16, 17 and 18. The carnival began with a Pontiac County first, a Rockathon staged at Moyle's Hotel with four rockers, Basil Belland, Donald Belland, David Bertrand and Guy Larivière hoping to rock for 48 hours and competing for a \$100 prize.

The events on Saturday got underway with a pancake breakfast at Moyle's hotel with cooks Denis Boucher and Mike Patry putting on an excellent display of the culinary arts, as any one who was there will agree.

In the Woodsman Competition held in the Centennial Park the chain sawing contest was won by Mr. Gerald Laramé of Fort Coulonge and the Cross Cut Saw Contest was won by the team of Gerald Lamothe of Calumet Island and Ronald Dubeau of Campbell's Bay.

Quyon's first snomo derby: Excellent weather, a huge crowd and an ideal location all contributed to the success of Quyon's first Snowmobile Derby held Sunday afternoon on the Ottawa River just in front of the Quyon fair grounds.

It would be difficult to estimate the total number attending this event sponsored by the Quyon Agricultural Society for not only was the race track ringed with spectators but the wharf provided a ready made grandstand from which to view the proceeding to advantage. Also aircraft, apparently attracted to the scene by the crowd and the speeding vehicles were seen to land on the broad frozen expanse of the Ottawa River in order that the occupants might better see just what was going on.

No doubt, the most exciting of all the events was the Open Relay, won by Carl Bellow of Eganville and John Marcellus of Arnprior.

Local drivers figuring high in the other winnings included Gerard Trudeau of Quyon, Hugh Hammond of Beech Grove and Willie Dods of Wyman.

The Beach Barn nearby afforded a warm, comfortable haven and the ladies of the Quyon Agricultural were kept busy supplying hot dogs, pork and beans and coffee as they attempted to satisfy appetites which always seem at maximum capacity on a frosty Canadian winter day.

Mar. 11, 1948

75 Years Ago

Local news: The Ice Carnival held at Shawville arena on Monday night attracted the largest crowd ever attending such an event here. All the spectators' spaces were fairly well crowded and while there were many more costumed skaters than usual, perhaps the costumes were not as elaborate as seen on former occasions.

The broom-ball and hockey match between the young ladies and married men, the latter in costume and handicapped to one hand was a feature of the carnival. This was run off in two 15 minute periods, first using a puck and then a broom and a football.

Barbara Ann Scott, European World and Olympic figure skating champion was given the greatest reception and welcome home ever accorded to anyone when she arrived in Ottawa, her home city, Monday at noon. She was met at the station by Mayor Lewis, Prime Minister King and members of the city council and thousands of citizens jammed the station to the point of suffocation.

Last Friday night's exhibition hockey match between Creighton

Stars, runners-up for the Ottawa playgrounds championship and Shawville Seniors, provided the most exciting game seen at the local arena this season with a large crowd in attendance. The game finished in a 3-all tie.

Feb. 22, 1923

100 Years Ago

Local news: The Valentine Tea given on Tuesday night last by the Young Ladies Guild of St. Paul's Church fell somewhat short of the expected attendance and consequently a considerable quantity of good eats remained on hand.

A week or so ago, the low-ebbing spirits of Bryson citizens were at least temporarily revived by a visit from the engineers who have to do with the planning of the proposed big power dam at Calumet Chutes.

Mr. W.A. Hodgins has the distinction of being the first citizen in town to install a "radio set" and a few days later Mr. George E. Wainman followed with another and thus our enterprising town is linked up with such inconsequential burgs as New York, Pittsburgh, Washington, Davenport and other places south of the boundary.

Methodist church: the crest of winter's wave is past as we hope also that widespread sickness has done, so we hope to meet everyone at church next Sunday.

The village of Galetta had quite a blaze on Monday evening of last week, the reflection of which was plainly seen from here. Three frame buildings were destroyed. Citizens had to fight hard to save other places from being destroyed.

By the Redistribution Bill brought down by the Premier last week, the next House of Commons will have 245 members, an increase of 10 over the present house.

Mrs. Susan Augusta Maxwell, a black woman said to have been the oldest citizen in Canada, died at Richmond Hill, Ont. on Feb. 11, aged 117 years. Mrs. Maxwell escaped from the United States before the slaves were emancipated.

Mar. 3, 1898

125 Years Ago

Local news: Three highwaymen held up and attempted to rob Joseph McEwan of Hawthorne, and others, while going home from Ottawa on Saturday night. McEwan in making his escape, was shot in the leg by one of his assailants and nearly bled to death before surgical aid could be procured.

CONTINUED ON PAGE FIVE

Local teen sees **BIG** potential in Pontiac adventure tourism

by Connor Lalande



Gabriel Deschênes braving a drop on the Penniseault Creek.



Snowshoeing through the Pontiacs extensive forests.



Surfing the "mini-bus" wave in the Ottawa River.

The Pontiac is blessed with natural beauty. Picturesque lakes, imposing cliffs, meandering rivers and tranquil forests make up a landscape that is an ideal playground for those who love to adventure outside. As the people of the Pontiac can attest to, whether during spring, summer, autumn or winter, the region is a hotbed for fishing, hunting or any number of other outdoor pursuits.

Someone who knows all too well the outdoor fun that can be had in the region is Gabriel Deschênes. A 15 year old from the Municipality of Rapides-des-Joachims, Deschênes has made it his mission to indulge in the world-class natural landscape of the Pontiac. By virtue of his drive to explore and relish the opportunities for adventure within the area, Deschênes is putting the untapped outdoor adventure potential of the region on both the proverbial and literal map.

A self-described outdoor enthusiast with a penchant for white-water kayaking, rock-climbing, mountain biking, and cross-country skiing, Deschênes is someone who seemingly can't sit still.

"I struggle sitting in my house and not doing anything," Deschênes admits. "It's really, really difficult for me to not get out there and do something."

With an abundance of energy and a passion for nature, Deschênes spends his free time exploring. During the winter months, he traverses the Pontiacs extensive trail networks with snowshoes

and skis, taking in the beauty of the snow covered forests. As the weather warms and the snow melts, Deschênes dusts off his kayak and rock-climbing shoes and makes his way to the many thunderous rivers and grandiose cliff faces that nature has graced the Pontiac with.

What started out as a means of getting outside and blowing off some youthful energy quickly evolved into something much bigger however. The more Deschênes explored the Pontiac, the more he realized the extent to which the recreational opportunities in the region were underutilized and underappreciated. While the area's world-class fishing and hunting are no secret, its top-notch rivers and cliff faces often go un paddled and unclimbed simply because the recognition of these natural assets is not there.

Realizing the extent of this untapped potential, Deschênes has taken it upon himself to spread the word. As soon as the snow melts and the water starts to run, Deschênes scours the Pontiac for potential whitewater routes. He spends the paddling season descending the region's extensive selection of imposing whitewater and sharing his experiences on social media and open-source mapping tools used by outdoor enthusiasts to find new paddling routes to descend. In doing so, he hopes to demonstrate to the whitewater paddling community that the region is blessed with an abundance of whitewater possibilities.

"If the potential these rivers have is shared, the Pontiac could

become a very good whitewater destination," said Deschênes.

Aside from the first-rate whitewater rivers the Pontiac boasts, Deschênes also believes the region's imposing and craggy topography make it an area of untapped potential for rock-climbing. Nestled amongst the precambrian rock of the Canadian Shield, the often rugged terrain of the Pontiac lends itself well to the sport.

"The Pontiac has incredible cliffs for rock climbing, as well as clusters of large boulders for bouldering," said Deschênes. "And these have easier and harder routes, so they are perfect for all ability levels."

As with his efforts to broadcast the region's whitewater, Deschênes plans on exploring and mapping the Pontiac's rock-climbing routes. With the routes mapped, his hope is to attract more rock-climbers to the area.

Deschênes insists the economic benefits to his efforts are far reaching.

"Once people know about what's in the Pontiac and start coming, we can start organizing places for people to stay, supply food and arrange shuttles," said Deschênes. "Which is amazing for the Pontiac economy."

Having been involved in his outdoor adventure passion project for some time, Deschênes was recently asked to join the latest iteration of the MRC Pontiac Youth Council. Seeing it as a forum to share his ideas on how the region's natural assets could help support the

Pontiac economy, Deschênes gladly accepted.

MRC Pontiac Warden, Jane Toller, who attended the initial meeting of the Youth Council to offer guidance and support, says she was immediately impressed after hearing Deschênes speak.

"I realized that he had many ideas, especially for the youth, and that he had thought of some things that we hadn't," Toller said. "We need the opinion of our youth because the youth are our future, they're going to play a part in the revitalization of the Pontiac that has already started," Toller continued.

While clearly an articulate speaker with an innate understanding of the issues the Pontiac is facing, Deschênes says he's not looking to get involved in politics, at least not yet.

"I'm doing this for people to enjoy and experience the outdoors," said Deschênes. "I just want to help people enjoy themselves within the Pontiac and that is ultimately why I am on the Youth Council."

Whether involved in politics or not, Deschênes says he has no plans of leaving the Pontiac anytime soon. A nature-lover with a passion for adrenaline sports, Deschênes plans on continuing to explore the bounty of recreational opportunities the landscape has been endowed with and potentially making a business out of it one day.

"I'm planning on staying," said Deschênes. "I grew up here and I can't really imagine myself leaving," he continued. "Whenever I travel around the Pontiac, I can see all the potential."

Parents' Voice

CONTINUED FROM PAGE FOUR

School-aged Kids

The possibilities are endless. Sometimes you may just want to do a quick search using materials you have at home. Here are a few great ideas that require little to no materials:

Mixing oil and water — Add a few tablespoons of water and a few tablespoons of oil. Add drops of food colouring. Screw the cap on tight and shake the bottle as hard as you can. What happens to the water and oil?

Volcano — The classic, watch as the volcano erupts. All it takes is a little baking soda, a little vinegar and a large container. Watch what happens when you add both ingredients together. Discuss why this happens.

The following website has tons of neat, simple experiments to try out: www.sciencekids.co.nz/experiments.html. Check it out and plan a few with your kids or let them pick the experiments they'd like to try.

Whatever you choose, enjoy some quality time with your kids and build in some relaxing time to recharge those batteries for the last months of the school year.

Until next week, play lots and be happy.

The Way We Were

CONTINUED FROM PAGE FOUR

At the monthly meeting of the Grand Calumet Mining Company held in Ottawa, reports *The Citizen*, the President Mr. Leopold Meyer, who came from California to attend the meeting and examine the progress made at the mines, said he was very much impressed with everything connected with the operation of the mine.

Several defects are complained of in the new postage stamps issued by the government. In the first place the absence of the large figure which distinguished the old stamps, makes it rather difficult to tell one denomination from another; again you have to look at a stamp very carefully or you may attach it bottom upwards, and lastly, a very serious objection, too, the Yankee firm which made the stamps were too stingy to use good mucilage.

An accident which might have proved fatal occurred on Green Lake where a gang of our noble countrymen were engaged in cutting ice for their summer use one day last week. Some of them being a little stiff and cold, began to tussle around and one, Mr. Bert Hodgins, slipped and lost his balance and seeing a block of ice floating within reach he stepped upon it, when presto, he had water to the neck. He was extricated from his watery position and after drying his clothes at a neighbouring house, was able to resume work.

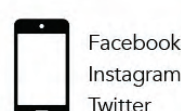
Mr. W.J. Tubman at Bristol Ridge has exchanged his engine for a larger one and has purchased a shingle machine with the intention of embarking in shingle making shortly.

The people of our neighbourhood are alarmed for the safety of a party who left here some time previous to the last snow storm and has not since been heard of. Whether he has been snowed under somewhere or taken flight on his "goose" for the Klondike gold region, are questions which at present are disturbing the minds of many.

The Canadian Pacific Railway officials report that 2,600 people left Vancouver in the week of Feb. 12 to Feb. 19 for the Yukon gold fields. From Jan. 30 to Feb. 19, nineteen days, the number going north was 10,000, while 600 came out.

La parole est à VOUS!

Your turn to SPEAK!



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SOPHIE CHATEL

Députée de Pontiac
Member of Parliament
for Pontiac

Lancement régional des journées de la persévérance scolaire

TÉO
GATINEAU 13 févr. 2023

C'est aujourd'hui le lancement de la Semaine des Journées de la persévérance scolaire en simultané partout au Québec du 13 au 17 février 2023. Sous le thème « Bien entourés, tous peuvent persévérer », l'emphase est mise sur l'importance du travail des intervenant(e)s qui gravitent autour des élèves et des étudiant(e)s, à commencer par les enseignant(e)s qui sont au cœur, au quotidien, de la persévérance et de la réussite des jeunes.

Une programmation variée et haute en couleurs dans la région

Dans la région, tout au long de la semaine, la Table Éducation Outaouais (TÉO) et ses nombreux partenaires, organisent des activités, des conférences ou des concours, et multiplient les messages positifs à l'attention, oui, des jeunes et des étudiant(e)s, mais surtout à l'attention des intervenant(e)s qui assurent cet encadrement.

Au niveau régional, la TEO offre des activités tout au long de la semaine, à commencer par la conférence « Trouve ta passion » offerte ce matin à tous les élèves de 3e et 4e année du primaire de la région. L'événement avait lieu en présence des élèves de l'école L'Oiseau bleu et en simultané sur le web à plus de 116 classes de la région, soit plus de 3 000 élèves. La TEO était d'ailleurs sur place à compter de 10h ce matin en compagnie du conférencier, Justin Mbayi, qui a témoigné aux

jeunes de son parcours scolaire difficile, surmonté grâce à ses passions. Le président de la TEO et directeur général du Cégep de l'Outaouais, monsieur Steve Brabant, en a profité pour souligner la grande mobilisation cette année :

« Cette année, un nombre record d'activités sont organisées dans les écoles et les établissements d'enseignement supérieur de la région, mais aussi, dans les organismes qui accueillent les jeunes en dehors de l'école. La persévérance est l'affaire de tous, et nous sommes bien heureux de la grande mobilisation constatée dans notre région, et de la belle diversité d'activités offertes. » a tenu à mentionner monsieur Brabant.

Le calendrier complet des activités est disponible sur le web ici : <https://tableeducationoutaouais.org/evenements-et-activites/vedettes/>

Un travail étudiant bien encadré pour une expérience positive

Ce matin, le Réseau québécois pour la réussite éducative (RQRÉ), dont fait partie la TEO, a dévoilé un important sondage réalisé par la firme Léger dans le cadre des JPS 2023 auprès de la population québécoise afin de comprendre sa perception de la conciliation études-travail suite à la pandémie et de documenter le phénomène du travail des étudiants en contexte de rareté de main d'œuvre.

Travailler durant les études a, en effet, plusieurs avantages

et peut s'avérer positif dans certains cas. Mais il faut s'assurer que ce travail soit bien encadré, que les conditions d'emploi soient optimales pour que cette expérience soit positive, en conciliation et en appui à leur réussite éducative. Monsieur Brabant a tenu à faire le lien entre les conclusions du sondage et les préoccupations de la région en matière de conciliation travail-études, ceci, dans le cadre des JPS :

« Le cœur du message des JPS mise sur le fait qu'un encadrement de qualité est la clé de la persévérance scolaire et de la réussite éducative. C'est aussi vrai lorsqu'on parle de l'encadrement du travail étudiant. D'ailleurs, plus particulièrement aujourd'hui, le message des JPS est dirigé envers les employeurs et les parents des enfants en âge de travailler afin que ceux-ci s'assurent ensemble de fournir un encadrement de qualité qui favorise le travail principal des jeunes, soit d'étudier et de réussir à l'école, en priorité. »

C'est d'autant plus préoccupant en contexte de rareté de main d'œuvre. Nous travaillons d'ailleurs en ce sens avec les gens d'affaires, les Carrefours jeunesse-emploi et le réseau scolaire de la région depuis quelques années, notamment sur notre stratégie Employeurs engagés envers la réussite éducative des étudiants-travailleurs ».

À propos des Journées de la persévérance scolaire
Chaque année, depuis 2005,

ont lieu les Journées de la persévérance scolaire (JPS) à la mi-février. Bien que la persévérance scolaire se travaille tout au long de l'année scolaire, la Semaine des JPS permet de mettre celle-ci à l'honneur à un moment charnière de l'année scolaire, soit la fin de la deuxième étape, là où la motivation peut être en baisse importante chez plusieurs élèves et étudiants.

Les JPS, c'est un grand mouvement de mobilisation nationale et régionale qui vise à rappeler à toutes et à tous le message principal suivant : Reconnaître son apport primordial dans la motivation, la résilience et la confiance en soi de chaque jeune, c'est saluer son engagement à faire de la persévérance scolaire sa priorité. Quand celle-ci se conjugue avec des félicitations, un accompagnement, des encouragements, des explications, une écoute et un appui, ce sont les jeunes et toute la société québécoise qui en sortent grands. <https://www.journeespersévérancescolaire.com/fr/campagne-2023>

Rappelons que les JPS sont une initiative du Réseau québécois pour la réussite éducative du Québec (RQRÉ), dont fait partie la Table Éducation Outaouais, qui a le mandat de faire rayonner cette campagne dans la région de l'Outaouais. Les JPS sont réalisées grâce à l'appui et la collaboration du ministère de l'Éducation du Québec (MEQ), partenaire principal des JPS 2023.

Ministre Lamontagne annonce l'ouverture officielle de la deuxième cohorted'agriculteurs

GOUV DU QUÉBEC
QUÉBEC 20 févr. 2023

Le gouvernement du Québec annonce la deuxième période d'inscription à l'Initiative ministérielle de rétribution des pratiques agroenvironnementales, qui se déroulera du 6 au 31 mars 2023.

L'initiative est une mesure phare du Plan d'agriculture durable 2020-2030 (PAD). Elle reconnaît les efforts déployés et les pratiques agroenvironnementales mises en place par les productrices et producteurs agricoles qui vont au-delà des exigences réglementaires et qui génèrent des gains environnementaux importants.

Pour cette deuxième cohorte, l'Initiative a fait l'objet de deux modifications importantes. La première vise la reconnaissance de la formation continue des entreprises offertes par l'Institut de technologie agroalimentaire du Québec (ITAQ) en collaboration avec les partenaires du secteur. Le parcours de formation de l'ITAQ permettra aux entreprises de parfaire leurs connaissances en agroenvironnement et de bénéficier d'une rétribution spécifique pouvant atteindre 1 500 \$ par entreprise. La seconde modification touche la reconnaissance des agriculteurs et des agricultrices leaders qui ont atteint un niveau avancé d'adoption des pratiques les plus novatrices en agroenvironnement. Ces personnes sont exemptées de la condition de croissance prévue à l'Initiative. Les deux nouvelles mesures sont rétroactives aux entreprises de la première cohorte.

Rappelons que, à la suite du déploiement de la première cohorte de l'Initiative en février 2022, quelque 1 850 entreprises s'y sont inscrites en un peu plus de 24 heures, réservant ainsi la totalité de l'enveloppe initiale de 56 millions de dollars prévue sur quatre ans. Les résultats déclarés pour la première année de participation de ces entreprises sont éloquentes et témoignent de leur engagement pour une agriculture plus durable.

Le ministre de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation et ministre responsable de la région du Centre-du-Québec, M. André Lamontagne, a profité de l'occasion pour annoncer l'octroi d'une aide financière de 356 400 \$ à l'Union des producteurs agricoles (UPA) afin de mettre sur pied le projet Agir pour l'agriculture durable : 3 en 1. Celui-ci vise à sensibiliser et à former les entreprises aux bonnes pratiques agro-

environnementales, notamment celles admissibles à l'Initiative. Les formations mises sur pied dans le cadre de ce projet seront également inscrites au parcours de formation continue en agroenvironnement. Il s'agit d'un bel exemple de synergie des initiatives déployées dans le cadre du PAD, puisque cela maximise leurs retombées.

« Le virage vers une agriculture durable doit s'accélérer et, pour y arriver, la mobilisation de tous les acteurs du secteur agricole est indispensable. Grâce à l'Initiative, notre gouvernement prend part de façon active à ce virage en soutenant les producteurs agricoles dans leur transition vers des pratiques plus durables. Le succès de cette mesure lors de la première période d'inscription en 2022 témoigne de sa pertinence et de sa force mobilisatrice. En outre, l'apport de l'ITAQ et de l'UPA constitue un complément essentiel à la réussite de cette transition, qui favorisera une meilleure santé de la population ainsi que la protection de l'environnement et la pérennité des ressources naturelles. » André Lamontagne, ministre de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation et ministre responsable de la région du Centre-du-Québec.

« À titre de coordonnateur des activités de formation, l'ITAQ s'est associé à plusieurs maisons d'enseignement ainsi qu'à d'autres partenaires du milieu. En acceptant cette responsabilité, l'Institut contribue à soutenir les producteurs agricoles de l'ensemble de la province dans l'adoption de pratiques agroenvironnementales responsables et performantes tout en répondant aux préoccupations des acteurs du monde agricole et des Québécois. » Aisha Issa, directrice générale de l'Institut de technologie agroalimentaire du Québec.

« La bonification de l'Initiative, tant au chapitre des budgets qu'à celui des modalités, est une bonne nouvelle. Je suis persuadé que les productrices et les producteurs du Québec, à l'instar de la première période d'inscription l'an dernier, seront au rendez-vous cette année. Il faut continuer de miser sur leur professionnalisme et leur engagement en matière de pratiques durables. Le soutien et l'accompagnement, en toutes circonstances, doivent toutefois être à la hauteur des défis. Nous continuerons donc de proposer diverses avenues permettant de répon-

dre à l'ensemble des besoins, notamment à ceux des régions périphériques. » Martin Caron, président général de l'Union des producteurs agricoles.

« L'enveloppe additionnelle et les nouvelles modalités du programme de rétribution sont des pas dans la bonne direction. Nous saluons le mandat donné à l'ITAQ de coordonner les activités de formation, qui, conjointement au soutien-conseil, sont des maillons essentiels pour soutenir les changements au champ. Les défis actuels de dérèglement climatique et de perte du vivant, de hausse des prix de toutes parts ainsi que d'épuisement, pour ne nommer que ceux-là, nécessitent une intensification du soutien à l'agriculture afin d'opérer rapidement la transition écologique et solidaire. C'est notre avenir alimentaire qui en dépend. » Colleen Thorpe, directrice générale d'Équiterre

« C'est toujours motivant de réaliser que nos actions sont reconnues et qu'elles peuvent avoir un impact positif sur notre société. L'Initiative apporte aussi l'incitatif financier souvent manquant pour justifier de mettre en place un projet agroenvironnemental. » Samuel Ostiguy, copropriétaire de la Ferme Janot inc.

Faits saillants

En s'inscrivant à l'Initiative ministérielle de rétribution des pratiques agroenvironnementales, les entreprises s'engagent à appliquer au moins une pratique admissible au cours des trois prochaines années de culture.

La deuxième période d'inscription à l'Initiative se déroulera du 6 au 31 mars 2023 ou jusqu'à l'épuisement de l'enveloppe budgétaire de 29 millions de dollars.

La bonification de 29 millions de dollars sur cinq ans (2022-2027), annoncée au Plan budgétaire 2022-2023, permet l'ouverture de cette nouvelle période d'inscription. Environ 1 000 entreprises pourront s'inscrire à l'Initiative, qui est administrée par La Financière agricole du Québec.

La rétribution totale versée pourra atteindre jusqu'à 50 000 \$ par entreprise.

L'Initiative agit comme effet de levier pour stimuler l'atteinte de résultats positifs dans une optique de partage des risques financiers liés à l'adoption de pratiques durables. Elle contribue aussi à l'atteinte des cibles du PAD.

Les pratiques admissibles dans le cadre de l'Initiative

sont les suivantes :

Diversification des cultures; Protection des sols hors saison;

Réduction de l'usage des herbicides;

Utilisation de semences non traitées aux insecticides; Aménagements favorables à la biodiversité.

Des 1 850 entreprises issues de la première cohorte, 1 818 d'entre elles ont rempli leur déclaration pour la première année de participation :

Quelque 96 % des entreprises participantes ont appliqué des pratiques, et ce, sur des superficies totalisant plus de 240 000 hectares;

Les pratiques de protection des sols hors saison sont celles ayant été le plus appliquées, soit par 82 % des entreprises participantes et sur des superficies de plus de 150 000 hectares;

Les pratiques de réduction de l'usage des herbicides ont été appliquées par 41 % des entreprises participantes et sur des superficies de plus de 63 000 hectares;

La pratique d'utilisation de semences non traitées aux insecticides (maïs) a été appliquée par 25 % des entreprises participantes et sur des superficies de près de 25 000 hectares;

Des aménagements favorables à la biodiversité ont été réalisés par 58 % des entreprises participantes et sur des superficies de 16,8 millions de mètres carrés (1 685 hectares);

Enfin, le tiers des entreprises participantes a droit à un versement complémentaire, puisque la valeur totale des pratiques appliquées la première année excède le montant de l'avance versée à l'inscription. Ce sont 2,2 millions de dollars qui seront versés au total.

Le projet Agir pour l'agriculture durable : 3 en 1 permettra la réalisation de trois campagnes de sensibilisation qui viseront à informer les producteurs et à les inspirer à entreprendre leur propre démarche agroenvironnementale. Par ailleurs, ces campagnes incluent des formations qui seront inscrites dans le parcours de formation continue de l'ITAQ.

Liens connexes

Inscription à l'Initiative ministérielle de rétribution des pratiques agroenvironnementales : www.fadq.qc.ca/initiative-pratiques-agro.

Plan d'agriculture durable 2020-2030 : <https://www.quebec.ca/agriculturedurable>.

Le gouvernement du Canada lance la Stratégie quantique nationale pour créer des emplois et faire progresser les technologies quantiques

GOUV DU CANADA
WATERLOO 13 janv. 2023

La science et les technologies quantiques sont à la fine pointe de la recherche et de l'innovation. Elles recèlent un énorme potentiel en matière de commercialisation et pourraient mener à des percées révolutionnaires, notamment pour la conception de médicaments plus efficace, de meilleures prévisions climatiques, une navigation facilitée ainsi que des innovations dans le domaine des technologies propres. Le gouvernement du Canada est déterminé à appuyer la croissance soutenue de ce secteur émergent, qui stimule l'économie canadienne et offre des emplois hautement spécialisés et bien rémunérés.

Le ministre de l'Innovation, des Sciences et de l'Industrie, l'honorable François-Philippe Champagne, a lancé aujourd'hui la Stratégie quantique nationale, qui façonnera l'avenir des technologies quantiques au pays et contribuera à la création de milliers d'emplois. La Stratégie, assortie d'un investissement de 360 millions de dollars annoncé dans le budget de 2021, consolidera le leadership mondial du Canada en recherche quantique et favorisera la croissance des entreprises, le perfectionnement des technologies et le développement des talents au pays.

Lors du lancement, le ministre Champagne était accompagné de Raymond Laflamme, professeur au Département de physique et d'astronomie et titulaire de la Chaire de recherche du Canada sur l'information quantique à l'Institut d'informatique quantique de l'Université de Waterloo, et de Stephanie Simmons, professeure agrégée au Département de physique et titulaire de la Chaire de recherche du Canada sur les technologies quantiques au silicium à l'Université Simon Fraser, également fondatrice et chef de la direction quantique de Photonic Inc. M. Laflamme et Mme Simmons coprésideront un nouveau conseil consultatif sur la quantique, qui formulera des conseils d'experts impartiaux sur la mise en œuvre de la Stratégie.

La Stratégie quantique nationale repose sur trois missions dans des domaines clés des technologies quantiques :

Matériel informatique et logiciels : faire du Canada un chef de file mondial du développement, du déploiement et de l'utilisation soutenus de ces technologies;

Communications : doter le Canada d'un réseau national de communications quantiques sécurisées et de capacités en matière de cryptographie post quantique;

Capteurs : soutenir les concepteurs canadiens et les premiers utilisateurs de capteurs quantiques.

Les missions pourront être atteintes grâce à des investissements dans les trois piliers suivants :

Recherche : 141 millions de dollars serviront à soutenir la recherche fondamentale et la recherche appliquée en vue de trouver de nouvelles solutions et de concevoir des innovations;

Talent : 45 millions de dollars serviront à former au Canada des spécialistes du domaine quantique et à les maintenir en poste, et à attirer des experts d'ici et d'ailleurs, en vue de bâtir le secteur quantique;

Commercialisation : 169 millions de dollars serviront à traduire la recherche en produits et en services commerciaux adaptables qui profiteront à la population canadienne, aux industries et au monde entier.

Les efforts de mise en œuvre de la Stratégie sont déjà en cours. Pour solidifier les forces du Canada en recherche quantique et établir un bassin de talents favorisant le développement d'une solide communauté quantique, le Conseil de recherches en sciences naturelles et en génie du Canada a investi 137,9 millions de dollars par l'entremise des subventions Alliance et du Programme de formation orientée vers la nouveauté, la collaboration et l'expérience en recherche (FONCER).

Mitacs offrira, par l'entremise de programmes de stages en innovation et de perfectionnement des compétences professionnelles, un soutien de 40 millions de dollars visant à attirer et à former du personnel hautement qualifié en science et en technologies quantiques, ainsi qu'à le maintenir en poste et à le déployer.

L'Initiative de recherche et de développement en quantique, un nouveau programme de 9 millions de dollars coordonné et administré par le Conseil national de recherches Canada (CNRC), est actuellement mise sur pied dans le but d'intensifier les travaux collaboratifs de recherche-développement quantique auxquels participe le gouvernement fédéral. Dans le cadre de cette initiative, le gouvernement, qui fournira expertise et infrastructure, s'associera à des partenaires universitaires et industriels afin de faire progresser les technologies quantiques et d'ainsi réaliser les trois missions de la Stratégie.

Pour aider à transformer la science et la recherche quantiques en innovations commerciales qui génèrent des retombées économiques, ainsi qu'à soutenir l'adoption par les entreprises de solutions conçues au pays, le CNRC reçoit 50 millions de dollars pour élargir le programme Défi « Internet des objets : capteurs quantiques » et mettre en œuvre le programme Défi « Informatique quantique appliquée ».

Par ailleurs, les grappes d'innovation mondiales du Canada reçoivent 14 millions de dollars pour mener des activités relevant du pilier de la commercialisation.

De plus, le programme d'appro-

visionnement stratégique phare du gouvernement, Solutions innovatrices Canada, reçoit 35 millions de dollars sur sept ans pour aider de novatrices et moyennes entreprises novatrices à croître, à prendre de l'expansion, à concevoir de la propriété intellectuelle, à exporter et à créer des emplois de grande valeur dans le secteur quantique.

Le secteur quantique joue un rôle essentiel pour ce qui est de stimuler l'économie canadienne, de favoriser sa résilience à long terme et de soutenir sa croissance, tout particulièrement au moment où les technologies atteignent une certaine maturité et que de plus en plus de secteurs tirent profit des possibilités quantiques. Les emplois dans ce domaine touchent la recherche et la science; le génie et le développement matériels et logiciels, y compris le génie des données; la fabrication; le soutien technique; les ventes et le marketing; et les activités commerciales. Le gouvernement continuera de travailler avec la communauté quantique canadienne pour assurer le succès non seulement de la Stratégie quantique nationale, mais également des scientifiques et des entrepreneurs bien positionnés pour tirer avantage de ces possibilités.

« Les technologies quantiques façonneront l'avenir, et le Canada se trouve déjà à l'avant-garde de ce domaine, montrant la voie à suivre. La Stratégie quantique nationale favorisera la résilience de l'économie en renforçant nos travaux de recherche, nos entreprises et notre bassin de talents, ce qui procurera au Canada un avantage concurrentiel pour des décennies à venir. J'ai hâte de collaborer avec les entreprises, les chercheurs et le milieu universitaire à l'essor de notre avenir quantique. » Le ministre de l'Innovation, des Sciences et de l'Industrie, l'honorable François-Philippe Champagne.

Faits en bref

Une étude commandée par le Conseil national de recherches Canada en 2020 indique que, d'ici 2045, une fois les technologies quantiques bien implantées, le secteur quantique du Canada deviendra, si l'on inclut toutes les retombées économiques, une industrie de 139 milliards de dollars offrant 209 200 emplois.

Le gouvernement du Canada a investi plus de 1 milliard de dollars dans le domaine quantique depuis 2012. Ces investissements de base ont permis au Canada de se démarquer comme chef de file mondial en science quantique.

La Stratégie quantique nationale a été élaborée à la suite de consultations publiques exhaustives comprenant des tables rondes avec les parties intéressées et une enquête en ligne.

Plusieurs investissements ont déjà été annoncés par l'intermédiaire de programmes gouvernementaux existants, et d'autres partenaires préparent le lance-

ment de leurs programmes quantiques.

Quatre contrats, d'une valeur totale de 2,1 millions de dollars, ont été attribués dans le cadre du programme Solutions innovatrices Canada afin que les solutions de capteurs, de communications et d'informatique quantiques proposées par Xanadu Quantum Technologies Inc., CogniFrame Inc., Photon etc. inc. et Zero Point Cryogenics Inc. soient mises à l'essai.

Jusqu'à maintenant, le Conseil de recherches en sciences naturelles et en génie du Canada a octroyé 17 subventions sur trois ans, dont la valeur totale s'élève à 1,5 million de dollars. Il prévoit annoncer au cours des prochains mois d'autres résultats de ses initiatives quantiques, dont ceux des subventions en quantique du programme Alliance, y compris du volet International, des subventions Consortiums en quantique du programme Alliance, et du Programme de formation orientée vers la nouveauté, la collaboration et l'expérience en recherche (FONCER).

Le Conseil national de recherches Canada a lancé les programmes Défi pour soutenir des projets de collaboration avec le milieu universitaire et l'industrie visant à stimuler l'innovation commerciale et à faire fond sur le leadership mondial du Canada dans le domaine des technologies quantiques.

Le programme Défi « Internet des objets : capteurs quantiques » est axé sur la mise au point de capteurs révolutionnaires qui utilisent l'extrême sensibilité des systèmes quantiques pour améliorer la précision des mesures et les taux de sensibilité, et même élargir la gamme de phénomènes pouvant être mesurés.

Le programme Défi « Informatique quantique appliquée » vise à exploiter la capacité des algorithmes et des logiciels quantiques ainsi qu'à mettre sur pied, en collaboration avec le milieu universitaire et l'industrie, des projets de recherche-développement qui permettront de simuler efficacement des systèmes physiques complexes, d'engendrer de nouvelles technologies utiles pour la santé et la lutte contre les changements climatiques, et de concevoir des matériaux de pointe.

Les gouvernements du Canada et du Royaume-Uni ont conjointement lancé un appel de propositions ouvert aux organismes des deux pays qui souhaitent former des consortiums pour la tenue de projets collaboratifs axés sur le développement de produits, de procédés et de services technologiques novateurs dans le domaine des technologies quantiques. L'appel est administré par le Programme d'aide à la recherche industrielle du Conseil national de recherches Canada et l'organisme Innovate UK.

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S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
26	27	28	29	30	31		30						

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Now until July 1 - Shawville Logo Contest. Must be received by Tues. Feb. 28 at 3 p.m. For details visit the Municipality of Shawville Facebook page. xtc

Every Friday from Jan. 13 to Apr. 28 - Shawville Shenanigans Playgroup for ages 0 - 5 years and caregivers. 9:30-11:30a.m. 586 Main Street in Shawville. Free.

Every Monday from Jan. 16 - Mar. 20 - Creative Movement for caregivers and tots. 10:30-11:15a.m. Shawville Lions Hall. \$25 per family for all sessions. Register in advance at theparentsvoice.com xtc

Every Monday - Learn to play Pickleball at Shawville United Church Hall. 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. Cost \$3. White soled shoes required. Contact Mary Ann at mabrams55@hotmail.com for more info.

Every Mon. and Wed. - Pickleball at Shawville United Church Hall. 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. Cost \$3. White soled shoes required. Contact Mary Ann at mabrams55@hotmail.com for more info.

Every Tuesday - 4:30-5:30 p.m. Saturday 6-7 p.m. and Sunday 2:30-3:30 p.m. Public skating at the Shawville Arena. Senior skate Tuesdays 2:30-3:30 p.m. xtc

Every Tuesday - Bridge at St. Paul's Anglican Church Hall. 10 a.m to 12 p.m. Cost \$3.

Every Tues. and Fri. - Pickleball at Shawville United Church Hall. 6:30 - 9 p.m. Cost \$3. White soled shoes required. Contact Mary Ann at mabrams55@hotmail.com for more info.

First Thursday of each month. Luskville Knit & Craft Night at Leystone Farms. 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Opportunity to meet your neighbours and share your passion for craft. xtc

Every Wed. Feb. 1 to Mar. 8 - Free Babysitter Training Course. Maisons des Jeunes in Rapides Des Joachims. For more info contact Kelsey Daly 819-360-0092 or kdaly.mj@pontiac.ca xtc

Every second Sat. From Feb. 4 - Mar. 4 - Moonlight Ski at Pine Lodge, Bristol. For more information and tickets visit www.pine-lodge.ca/shop xtc

Every third Sat. Feb. 18 - June 17 - Hand Drumming Workshop. Town Hall in Rapides-des-Joachims. 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. For more info visit www.facebook.com/djembefoley

Every Mon. Feb. 20 to March 27 - Nobody's Perfect sessions. Quyon Family Centre. Meet, Share, Learn with other parents of kids 0-5 years. Register at 819-458-2808. Daycare available. xtc

Every Tues. Feb. 21 - Mar. 14 - Empowering Warrior Women. Painted Hilltop Farm, Otter Lake. No horse experience necessary. 5-6:30 p.m. \$60 per session. For more info visit www.paintedhilltop.ca or call 819-647-8945.

Every Wed. Feb. 22 - Mar. 29 - Learn to Knit, Leystone Farms, Luskville. For more info visit www.facebook.com/LeystoneFarms xtc

Fri., Mar. 3 - Hooley in the Hall, Anglican Church Hall, 530 Main, Shawville. Live music evening. 7-9:30 p.m. Free admission. Coffee/snacks available. All welcome.

Fri. Mar. 3 - Public consultation meeting on an urban planning bylaw project. 3:00 p.m. at Municipal Office, 1362 Route 148, Campbell's Bay, Quebec.

Sat. Mar. 4 - Snowmobile Races. Centre de Loisirs des Draveurs Century 21 Elite, Fort-Coulonge. \$15 per person. Kids under 12 free. Gates open 8 a.m. xtc

Sat. Mar. 4 - Eric Lanoix and Willy Rivet at Café Downtown, Fort-Coulonge. \$5 per person. Starts at 8 p.m. xtc

Sat. Mar. 4 - Learn to Snowshoe Clinic with Ski Pontiac. Astra Estates, Norway Bay. Starts at 1 p.m. Reserve snowshoes if needed and register at eventbrite.com

Sat. Mar. 4 - Little Red Wagon Winery presents Forgotten Memories of the Ottawa Valley. \$10 per person. 7 - 8 p.m. Meal at 6 p.m. additional \$28 per person. Tickets at www.littleredwagonwinery.com/events-tickets

Tues. Mar. 7 - Twilight Snowshoe. Chapeau R. A. 6-7 p.m. Free.

Fri. Mar. 10 - March Breaking Barriers Camp. Painted Hilltop Farm, Otter Lake. 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. No horse experience necessary. Cost \$100. More info at www.paintedhilltop.ca or call 819-647-8945. xtc

Fri. Mar. 10 - Karaoke Night at Café Downtown, Fort-Coulonge. 6-11 p.m. No cover charge. All ages welcome.

Sat. Mar. 11 - Quyon Legion's Annual St. Patrick's Day Kitchen Party. Starts at 2 p.m. Free entry. 26 Rue St. John, Quyon. Everyone welcome.

Every Tues. Mar. 14 to May 30 - French Conversation Classes, beginner. Pontiac Continuing Education Centre, Shawville. 6:30-9 p.m. Cost \$50. To register contact Chantal at cchampagne@wqsb.qc.ca xtc

Every Thurs. Mar. 16 to June 1 - French Conversation Class, intermediate. Pontiac Continuing Education Centre, Shawville. 6:30-9 p.m. Cost \$50. To register contact Chantal at cchampagne@wqsb.qc.ca xtc

Fri. Mar. 17 - Rene Bertrand at Café Downtown, Fort-Coulonge. \$5 per person. Starts at 8 p.m. xtc

Fri. Mar. 17 - Drink and Be Irish, St. Patrick's Day Party, Killarney's Bar, Shawville. Starts at 3 p.m. No cover charge.

Sat. Mar. 18 - Adam's Buoys at Café Downtown, Fort-Coulonge. \$10 per person. Starts at 8 p.m.

Sat. Mar. 18 - St. Patrick's Day Irish Stew Supper at Ladies Agricultural Hall, Fair Grounds, Shawville. \$20 per person. Under 12 \$5. Sleigh rides 3 p.m. Skating 6-7 p.m. Pre order tickets 819-775-5955, 819-635-6994, 819-647-8094.

Sat. Mar. 18 - Traditional Fare & Scott Judd at Little Red Wagon Winery, Shawville. Starts at 7:30 p.m. Tickets available at www.littleredwagonwinery.com/events-tickets

Sat. Mar. 18 - Pieces of Bristol Jigsaw Puzzle Tournament, Jack Graham Community Centre, Bristol. \$40 per team. More info at www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100082079709490

Mon. Mar. 20 - MRC des Collines-de-L'Outaouais Public Information Session. Starts at 6 p.m. Luskville Community Centre 2024, route 148, Pontiac, Quebec.

Wed. Mar. 22 - Extraordinary General Meeting and Annual General Meeting. Table autonome des Aines des Collines. 74 Chemin du Pont, Val-des-Monts. See display ad in The Equity for more information.

Wed. Mar. 22 - Shawville at the Beginning: places, people and politics with Nancy Dale Conroy. Starts 10:30 a.m. Pontiac Archives, 358 Main St. Shawville. 3xtcm15

Fri. Mar. 24 - Save the date. Seniors Fair. Hosted by T.A.R.P. Pontiac High School. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. More info will be updated when available.

Wed. Mar. 29 - Bingo Night fundraiser for Quyon Legion. \$30 per person, includes playing cards. Centre Aydelu, 94 Rue du Patrimoine, Aylmer. More info and tickets Contact Vikki 819-458-2224.

Sat. Apr. 1 - Leeny Jones and The Boys. Café Downtown, Fort-Coulonge. Starts at 8 p.m. \$10 per person.

Fri. Apr. 14 - Downtown Drag Events presents: un Soiree d'Humour au Café Downtown, Fort-Coulonge. Doors open 6:30. Show 7:30-10 p.m. Tickets available at https://frontdoor.plus/store/?%e=151

Sat. Apr. 15 - Dart Tournament, Gavan's Hotel, Quyon. Mixed Triples. \$45 per team. Pre-register, Contact Elizabeth for info at 819-458-2354.

Sat. Apr. 15 - J.R. and the Gator at Café Downtown, Fort-Coulonge. Starts at 8 p.m. \$5 cover charge.

Fri. Apr. 21 - The Small Glories Concert at Little Red Wagon Winery, Shawville. Dinner 6 p.m. Show at 7:30 p.m. \$40 for show. Tickets at www.littleredwagonwinery.com/events-tickets

MISCELLANEOUS

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

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Campbell's Bay - 2 bedroom apartment available now 613-732-5147. xtc.

Shawville - Immaculate 2 bedroom apartment at Elizabeth Court on Shaw Street. Available in January. Call 819-639-4323. xtc.

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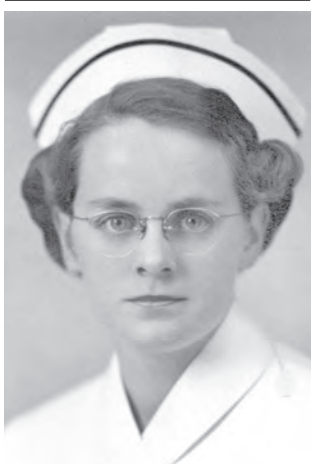
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OBITUARY



Glenn, Melva Elaine - In Carleton Place, Ontario on Monday, February 20, 2023 in her 95th year.

Predeceased by her beloved husband of 59 years, Merton. Loving mother of Laurie Ann (Doug), Ian (Sylvia) and Shari. Proud grandmother of Christopher, Sarah and Heather. Survived by her brother Murray Moore.

Friends may call at the Alan R. Barker Funeral Home, 19 McArthur Avenue, Carleton Place, on Saturday, March 11, 2023 at 12 noon for a Celebration of Life and a reception to follow. Inurnment to take place in the spring.

A sincere thank you to Dr. William Potvin and Anna, Laurie Grieken and all of the Personal Service Workers and Nurses who provided dedicated and gentle care, Retired Reverend Canon David Andrew and Venerable Reverend Tim Parent. In lieu of flowers, for those who wish, a donation to the Carleton Place and District Memorial Hospital Emergency Room Fundraiser would be appreciated by the family. www.barkerfh.com

OBITUARY



Leach, Evelyn Hilda - 1938-2023
May God bless you and give you a new home in Heaven. On February 12, 2023 in her home at Pontiac Reception Centre, Shawville, Quebec, sadly, Evelyn left us at the age of 84 years. Loving sister of Isabelle Leach (Emmerson), Rosie Hamilton and Leona Murdock. She will be missed by many. A graveside service will take place at a later date in St Brigid's Cemetery, North Onslow, Quebec. www.hayesfuneralhome.ca



Piché, Georgette (nee Lemaire) 1937 - 2023

It is with deep sadness that we announce the death of Georgette Piché (Lemaire) on February 25, 2023 in her 86th year. Beloved wife of the late Leo Piché. Daughter of the late Omer Lemaire and the late Laurinda Ladouceur. Loving mother to Nicole, Claude (late Bonnie) and Jacques (Colleen). Cherished grandmother of ten grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren. Predeceased by son Richard (Bernadette), grandson Brian, sister Ghislaine and brother Gilles. She will be sadly missed by her best friend Jeanette Romain as well as by many friends and anyone lucky enough to have known her.

Georgette was always willing to give a hand to TOPPS, CWL, Bryson Lionettes or Golden Age Club for many years and was very proud of it. We will never forget her smile and willingness to help.

Friends may call at Hayes Funeral Home, 134 Centre Street, Shawville, Quebec on Thursday, March 2, 2023 from 7 to 9 p.m. A Lionettes Service will take place at 8 p.m. Funeral Service will be held in Immaculate Conception Church, Bryson, Quebec on Friday, March 3 at 11 a.m. Interment in the Spring in Parish Cemetery. Donations to the Pontiac Community Hospital Foundation-Long Term Care Unit would be appreciated. The family wishes to thank the staff of Shawville hospital and the Long Term staff for their devoted care and compassion.

www.hayesfuneralhome.ca



IN MEMORY

Belland, Archie - March 1, 2022.
It's hard to believe it's one year today
That God called you home.
We think of you often and speak your name,
Remembering the silly things you used to say.
Love
Monika, Virginia, Christine and family

IN MEMORY

Cole, Cecil Waller - In memory of our father who passed away February 29th, 1972.
Gone but never forgotten,
Always in our hearts.
Love always
The Cole Family



Piché - In loving memory of Bonnie-Lynn Piché (Desabrais) who passed away four years ago, March 2, 2019.

Four years have passed and gone
Since one we loved so well
Was taken from our home on earth,
With Jesus Christ to dwell.
The flowers we place upon her grave
May wither and decay,
But the love for her who sleeps beneath
Shall never fade away.
Love Claude and Family

First of many



Opening attendees included (from left to right), the artist's Aunt Rilla Graham, the artist's daughter Ella Chamberlain, Aunt Janet Graham, Aunt Betty Chamberlain and childhood piano teacher Kathryn Perry.

GLEN HARTLE
SHAWVILLE February 24th, 2023

Café 349 opened their doors on Friday, February 24 for the official launch of a new season of exhibits with local art association, artPontiac, and the first to adorn the walls is artist Leah Beardsley-Chamberlain.

Previous iterations of the long-standing arrangement between the café and artPontiac have seen a great number of artists and their work pass through and it has been mutually beneficial for both partners. The café has delighted in a revolving cavalcade of local creativity and the art association has drawn dividends from being able to offer artists of all dominions a place in which to showcase their talents. Win-win.

Beardsley-Chamberlain's exhibit showcases her portraiture. On the walls are her, mostly, pencil sketches of recognizable icons of religion, Hollywood, royalty, sports and beyond. It is extensive, diverse and, thanks to her talents, as if one is observing a manifestation.

Beardsley-Chamberlain's is a prominent artist in the area whose work has been covered by THE EQUITY on several occasions.

Leah's work will be at the café until March 11.

The Notes

Waltham



HELEN PERRY | 819-689-2652 | garden101070@gmail.com

A cheery hello is extended to Susan Ethier who is presently in the hospital. We pray that you are feeling better soon.

Our heartfelt sympathy, thought and prayers are with the Chartrand family of Chapeau, Que. in the recent passing of Madeleine Chartrand (nee St. Cyr). She was the beloved wife of Lucien Chartrand.

Happy birthday and love are wished to our dear neighbour Megan Rochon who celebrated her birthday on Feb. 27. We

hope that you enjoyed your special day, Megan.

Little P.J. Romain celebrated his fifth birthday on Feb. 27. We hope you had a fun filled day full of surprises.

Warm birthday wishes are extended to Diane McKnight and Cynthia Allard who are celebrating their birthdays today. We hope you enjoy your special day girls.

Anniversary wishes are extended to Debbie and Elwood Allard who celebrated their anniversary on Feb. 25. May you share many more years of God's richest blessings of love, peace and joy.

Anniversary wishes are extended to Diane and Earl McKnight who are celebrating their 56th wedding anniversary on March 4.

Next week, the school children in the Pontiac are on their March break. I hope they, along with the teachers, custodians and bus drivers enjoy some R & R. Stay safe.

Shawville



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

Happy belated birthday, across the miles, to my sister Carol who celebrated her birthday on Feb. 27. Love from your family and friends.

Our deepest condolences to the Moorhead and Narlock families on the loss of Faye on Feb. 27. Faye was the wife of the late Dawson. She was the mother of Gary (Tracy) and the late Lynn (Jacques).

Our thoughts and prayers for the Lemaire and Piché families on the loss of Georgette on Feb. 25 at the age of 86. She was the wife of the late Leo. She was the mother of Nicole, Claude (late Bonnie), Jacques (Colleen) and late Richard (Bernadette).

The Shawville 150 Committee will be hosting a St. Patrick's Irish Stew Supper on March 18 at the Shawville Fairgrounds at

5 p.m. There will be some traditional music and a presentation of early settlers. Sleigh rides from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. and public skating from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the arena.

This coming Sunday will be the second Sunday of Lent. For the second Sunday of Lent we move from Jesus' retreat into the desert to his Transfiguration.

Quyon



JILL YOUNG | 819-918-0623 | jillianyoung6@gmail.com

Congratulations to Kelsie Roy and Zachary Jonah on the arrival of their first child last week, a baby boy named Maverick. The gang at Mountainview Turf are very excited for Maverick's grandpa, Denis Roy. Wishing the whole family all the best with their sweet little bundle of blue.

Best wishes are also going out to Colleen McKenny and Stephane Paré who welcomed their first baby on Feb. 16. They had a little girl named Blaire Lillian. She is a new grandchild for Leo and Janet McKenny. Congratulations to all!

Last Tuesday evening, the Quyon Lions Club hosted a delicious Pancake Supper at the Quyon Legion. There was a great crowd out to enjoy the pancakes, along with real

maple syrup, sausages, ham, beans and a selection of salads. It is so nice to be enjoying these events in person again after the past few years. Many thanks to the Quyon Lions and their helpers for organizing this meal.

I was happy to get out and play in the snow this past weekend. I dusted off my snowshoes and put them to work. On Friday, I joined my friend Caryl at Patinage en Foret in Wolf Lake and we enjoyed the snowshoe trails around the property. Conditions were perfect and the scenery was just gorgeous.

On Saturday, the Fit Mamas of the Pontiac held their inaugural event by snowshoeing around the property at Mountainview Turf which is, of course, one of my favourite

rite places. I thank them for allowing me to join them even though I am neither fit nor a mama. It was a wonderful morning of snowshoeing.

Birthday wishes are going out to Maureen McKenny as she celebrates on March 4. Best wishes to everyone celebrating special occasions this week.

In last week's issue of THE EQUITY there was a photo featured in the "Moments in Time" section, submitted by Allison Corrigan. My mother and members of her family really enjoyed the photo and asked me to share that they loved seeing all of the old familiar faces. Isn't it wonderful how photos can take us back in time and bring such great memories? Thank you to Mr. Corrigan for sharing it.



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Light show



The Northern Lights beautiful colours captured last Sunday, February 26.

Glen Hartle THE EQUITY

RBC Skate Day held in Shawville

BRETT THOMS
SHAWVILLE February 4, 2023

The second RBC Skate Day was held in the Shawville Arena last Sunday. The first event was held 2019, and though planned to be annual, it was put on hold for three years due to a COVID-19 hiatus.

"It's just to give back to our community. To do something fun for the kids in the community and the kids at heart," said Meagan Derouin, branch manager at the RBC Royal Bank in Shawville and one of the organizers of the skate day.

Early on in the event Derouin estimated that about 60 people were out on the ice.

The event also included free hot chocolate, treats, a give aways of RBC merch and a visit from Leo the Lion.



Brett Thoms THE EQUITY

Leo the Lion came out to visit the skaters while the rink was being zambonied.

Partying with a purpose at the Pontiac Legion



Connor Lalande THE EQUITY

Volunteers Mona Woodstock (left) and Lori Kensley (right) stand behind the bar at the Pontiac Legion's kitchen party fundraiser.

CONNOR LALANDE
CAMPBELL'S BAY February 25, 2023

Community members from across the region gathered at the Pontiac Legion in Campbell's Bay on Saturday for the organization's kitchen party fundraiser that is held every two weeks.

Attendees were greeted with live music, a 50/50 draw, a fully stocked bar of cold refreshments and meatball sandwiches for dinner.

Ron Woodstock, President of Branch 162 of the Royal Canadian Legion in the central Pontiac, stated events like the kitchen party are an essential component of keeping the Legion operating and continuing to support veterans and community members alike.

"We strive to keep our Legion alive so that we can keep the poppy campaign in the Pontiac alive," said Woodstock.

While most are familiar with the poppy

campaign from the bright red symbols of appreciation and reverence many Canadians wear in the weeks leading up to Remembrance Day, most are likely unaware of the manner in which the donations collected throughout the campaign are held and distributed.

According to the Legion website, donations collected throughout the poppy campaign are "held in trust at the branch level to directly support Veterans and their families within their community."

As a result of this localized structure, communities and regions where a Legion branch is not located have a far more difficult time accessing donations collected throughout the campaign.

If the Pontiac Legion were to disband, the region would likely see a decreasing share of the donations raised through the poppy campaign.

According to Woodstock, at present time, the Pontiac Legion donates between \$8,000 and \$10,000 of poppy campaign funds to initiatives throughout the Pontiac.

Examples include the restoration and maintenance of cemeteries and providing financial assistance to seniors residents, Woodstock explained.

Mona Woodstock, secretary of the Pon-

tac Legion branch, said that along with the many community programs the Legion supports, their primary focus is of course veterans and their families.

"Anything that any veteran or their families require, we're here for them," Woodstock said. "That's where that poppy campaign money goes."

Though the pandemic has caused a financial strain on the Pontiac Legion, Woodstock says the volunteer-run branch is committed to doing all they can to keep it operating and, in turn, retaining the indispensable poppy campaign funds.

Other upcoming fundraising events being organized by the Pontiac Legion are weekly Euchre games on Thursday afternoons and a St. Patrick's Day celebration on March 17.

Those interested in learning more about upcoming events can visit the Pontiac Legion's Facebook page.



Submitted photo

The organizers of the RBC skateday: Crystal Thrun, Cindy Anglehart, Britany Tubman, Karen Sauriol, Linda Laliberte, Shelley Normandeau, Meagan Derouin and Anne Stevens.



Connor Lalande THE EQUITY

Noella Crawford (left), Catherine Scullion (center) and Marie-Rose Petrin keeping the crowd entertained at Saturday's event.

Effectively understated

GLEN HARTLE
PONTIAC February 24, 2023

Pontiac Pride hosted a paint night at the Little Red Wagon Winery on February 24 and it was a cozy affair akin to a sorority pyjama party.

Host artist Michèle Gagnon led the way with her laid back brand of both artistry and pride while DJ EricaEnergy kept the mood in line for the event's duration.

In a moment of serendipity, Gagnon began her low-maintenance guidance of painting a pride-inspired-rainbow-skyline just as the sun was setting outside the windows of the winery behind her with an almost duplicate scene. It was poetic in the best of ways.

Around the room there was a constant low buzz of enjoyment augmented by paint strokes, camaraderie, quiet laughter, chatter boards and wine glasses. To the side, there was a table of bandanas, flags, stickers, pins, earrings, buttons, scarves and more which were for sale with proceeds going toward Pontiac Pride and future efforts come pride season in June.

Emma Judd and her helping hand, William Bastien, played attentive and wholly unobtrusive custodians of the ambient energy for which the winery has become synonymous.

If one were to dream of an ideal way to collectively celebrate individuality and commonality both, this would be it. There were no questions necessary, no peeling of any onions and certainly no spotlights of any sort. This was a subtle evening resulting in an elegant and creative experience for all. One where images are truly worth the many words of love whether they be on canvas or camera or both.



Glen Hartle THE EQUITY

Cutline: From left to right: artist-host Michèle Gagnon, DJ EricaEnergy, pride committee volunteers Ashley Sutton & William Bastien, winery hostess Emma Judd and pride committee volunteer Julianne Dooks.



Glen Hartle THE EQUITY

DJ EricaEnergy all smiles in her office.



Glen Hartle THE EQUITY

Pontiac Pride Paint Night participants display both their joy and creativity.

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Men's clothing • Young Children's Clothing • Yarn and wool

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