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# PONTIAC Journal DU PONTIAC

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Welcome to 2023!

Lever du soleil à Spiritwood, au nord de Quyon, montrant une mangeoire active suspendue à un arbre d'éryable à sucre.  
Sunrise at Spiritwood, north of Quyon, showing an active bird feeder hanging from Sugar Maple tree.

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# MRC mayors award over \$2.6 million in grants for local projects

MARYAM AMINI

**MRC PONTIAC** – The last meeting of 2022 for the Pontiac Council of Mayors (COM) took place on December 21 at the MRC in Campbell's Bay. The meeting started with a tribute to Sandra Murry, former mayor of Shawville, who passed away on November 26.

## Legal papers issued to two residents

Pat Goyette and Amy Taylor, two local residents, asked why the MRC started a legal action against them for criticism they had published on Facebook and other social media; they insisted they should have freedom of expression. Warden Jane Toller called the issue a legal matter. She added that their criticisms were "harassing, bullying and unacceptable," with Colleen Jones, the MRC's communication officer, stating that defamation occurs when criticism becomes a personal attack on integrity and competence. Toller encouraged the two to work with the MRC and act in favour of the region rather than wasting energy on negativity; she also stated she

doesn't think any further legal action will be necessary.

### Presentations

Lynne Cameron, the mayor of Portage-du-Fort, was recognized for her 20 years of service to her community and the MRC. Marie-Josée Corriveau, the local dancer who won the first place in Révolution Dance competition, was unable to attend but was praised for her good effort and for making the Pontiac proud.

### General administration

It was resolved to adopt the "Teleworking Policy" for MRC employees following negotiations with the union on December 7. Employees can work remotely 2 days per week unless their job requires their presence in the office.

### Finances

MRC Pontiac received \$879,829 from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to compensate for COVID-19 expenses. The COM made the following resolutions for the use of the funds: FRR Stream 2 reimbursement: \$20,000 for funds paid to two non-profits for assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic and

\$5,000 for a grant to a private company; FRR Stream 2 reimbursement: \$18,807 for an overpayment of COVID-19 pandemic assistance, created from this fund; with the remaining balance given in equal parts to the 18 municipalities and the Territories Non Organisés (TNO): \$8,110 per municipality.

The mayors also passed a resolution, supporting one submitted by Chichester council, asking the MRC to work with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) to reform how the municipal shares transferred to the MRC are calculated. Many of Pontiac's municipalities have seen their contribution to the MRC increase substantially with their recent budgets. (Watch for a future article on this subject.)

### Economic Development: over \$ 2.6 million awarded

The COM approved 27 local projects funded through the first call of the Regions & Rurality Fund (FRR Component 4) to support vitalization and inter-municipal cooperation. A total of \$2,622,470 was awarded.



## CONCERT DE NOËL À L'ÉCOLE SIEUR-DE-COULONGE

Le jeudi 22 décembre, l'école Sieur de Coulonge a présenté un Concert de Noël mettant en vedette des élèves et des enseignants de l'école qui ont présenté des animations musicales impressionnantes démontrant leur grand talent. L'invité spécial de cet événement était le père Noël. (GF)

**PHOTO :** Le père Noël accompagnant quelques élèves.

A second call for projects is expected in April 2023, and a resolution was passed to allow for more agricultural, forestry and environmental projects.

(See page 6 for the complete list of projects awarded.)

Council also resolved to discontinue the Donations and Sponsorship Program for 2023; in the past this fund was used for small events, with a maximum donation

of \$500. This could save the MRC \$10,000 but will be re-visited next year.

### Investment

The MRC purchased two artworks titled "Hibou Rouge" by Nikki Buechler and "Pontiac Fiddlers" by Jelly Massee for the MRC Pontiac Collection of Regional Works of Art.

### Management of territory

The Ministère des Ressources naturelles et des Forêts (MRNF) will grant new supply guarantees for 2023-2028. Since the MRC has approximately forty percent of the forest in the Outaouais, and many companies in other regions have taken advantage of the opportunity to harvest in the Pontiac, it was resolved that the MRC ask the Minister to ensure that adequate volumes of wood are allocated and reserved for mills located in the Pontiac.

— "MRC" p. 6



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# Les maires de la MRC accordent plus de 2,6 millions de dollars de subventions pour des projets locaux

MARYAM AMINI

**MRC DE PONTIAC** – La dernière réunion de 2022 du Conseil des maires du Pontiac (CM) a eu lieu le 21 décembre dans les locaux de la MRC de Campbell's Bay. La réunion a débuté par un hommage à Sandra Murry, ancienne maire de Shawville, décédée le 26 novembre dernier.

## Des papiers légaux délivrés à deux résidents

Pat Goyette et Amy Taylor, deux résidents locaux, ont demandé pourquoi la MRC a entamé une action en justice contre eux pour des critiques qu'ils avaient publiées sur Facebook et d'autres médias sociaux ; ils ont insisté sur le fait qu'ils devraient avoir la liberté d'expression. La préfète, Jane Toller, a qualifié la question d'affaire juridique. Elle a ajouté que leurs critiques étaient « harcelantes, intimidantes et inacceptables ». Colleen Jones, responsable des com-

munications de la MRC, a déclaré qu'il y a diffamation lorsque la critique devient une attaque personnelle contre l'intégrité et la compétence. Mme Toller a encouragé les deux personnes à travailler avec la MRC et à agir en faveur de la région plutôt que de gaspiller leur énergie dans la négativité ; elle a également déclaré qu'elle ne pensait pas qu'une action en justice supplémentaire serait nécessaire.

## Présentations

Lynne Cameron, maire de Portage-du-Fort, a été reconnue pour ses 20 ans de service à sa communauté et à la MRC. Marie-Josée Corriveau, la danseuse locale qui a remporté la première place au concours de danse Révolution, n'a pas pu entrer mais a été félicitée pour ses efforts et pour avoir rendu le Pontiac fier.

## Administration générale

Il a été résolu d'adopter la "Politique de télétravail" pour les employés de la MRC suite aux négociations avec le

syndicat le 7 décembre. Les employés pourront travailler à distance 2 jours par semaine, à moins que leur travail ne nécessite leur présence au bureau.

## Finances

La MRC de Pontiac a reçu 879 829 \$ du ministère des Affaires municipales et du Logement pour compenser les dépenses de la COVID-19. Le CM a pris les résolutions suivantes pour l'utilisation des fonds : Remboursement du volet 2 du FRR : 20 000 \$ pour des fonds versés à deux organismes sans but lucratif pour de l'aide durant la pandémie de COVID-19 et 5 000 \$ pour une subvention à une entreprise privée ; remboursement du volet 2 du FRR : 18 807 \$ pour un trop-perçu d'aide à la pandémie de COVID-19, créé à partir de ce fonds ; le solde restant étant remis en parts égales aux 18 municipalités et aux Territoires Non Organisés (TNO) : 8 110 \$ par municipalité.

Les maires ont également adopté une résolution, appuyant celle soumise par le conseil de Chichester, demandant à la MRC de travailler avec le ministère des Affaires municipales et du Logement (MAML) pour réformer le mode de calcul des parts municipales transférées à la MRC. Plusieurs municipalités du Pontiac ont vu leur contribution à la MRC augmenter substantiellement avec leurs récents budgets. (Surveillez un prochain article sur ce sujet).

## Développement économique : plus de 2,6 millions de dollars accordés

Le CM a approuvé 27 projets locaux financés par le premier appel du Fonds pour les régions et la ruralité (FRR, volet 4) pour soutenir la vitalisation et la coopération intercommunale. Un montant total de 2 622 470 \$ a été accordé. Un deuxième appel à projets est prévu en avril 2023 et

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une résolution a été adoptée pour permettre un plus grand nombre de projets agricoles, forestiers et environnementaux.

## Investissement

La MRC a acheté deux œuvres d'art intitulées "Hibou Rouge" par Nikki Buechler et "Pontiac Fiddlers" par Jelly Massee pour la Collection MRC Pontiac d'œuvres d'art régionales.

## Gestion du territoire

Le ministère des Ressources naturelles et des Forêts (MRNF) accordera de nouvelles garanties d'approvisionnement pour la période 2023-2028.

— Suite en p. 6

LA CHAMBRE DE COMMERCE DU PONTIAC VOUS PRÉSENTE

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# ÉDITORIAL

## Trouver des solutions pour les taxes municipales



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Dans les prochains jours, les propriétaires fonciers recevront leur compte de taxe pour l'année 2023. Plusieurs défis attendent les municipalités dans le Pontiac en 2023 : l'inflation, la pénurie de main-d'œuvre, l'augmentation des montants des quotes-parts à verser à la MRC, les travaux routiers, etc. En énumérant les responsabilités municipales, on se rend compte de l'ampleur du fardeau qui incombe au palier municipal. Les situations complexes sont nombreuses et je n'ai même pas encore abordé la question du développement économique ou des services culturels et de loisirs.

L'élaboration d'un budget équilibré pour 2023 au sein des conseils municipaux est une tâche digne des 12 travaux d'Astérix, mais sans potion magique. L'élaboration d'un budget municipal doit venir d'une concertation de tout un conseil formé habituellement de sept personnes qui ont tous d'autres engagements, plusieurs responsabilités et des opinions différentes. Cette année, c'est encore plus difficile. L'inflation, comme l'augmentation du coût de l'essence, a eu des répercussions. Citons que pour 2022 à la Municipalité de Mansfield, le coût supplémentaire qu'aura coûté l'essence est au minimum 60 000 \$ de plus que ce qui était prévu. La quote-part des municipalités cette année a provoqué plusieurs réactions. Le vétéran chez les

maires dans le Pontiac, Donald Gagnon du Canton de Chichester, a exprimé son mécontentement à la MRC après avoir vu la facture de la quote-part augmentée de 48 %. Pour une population de 350 personnes avec 160 maisons, c'est beaucoup. Je comprends parfaitement sa réaction vis-à-vis de cette facture qui vient alourdir le fardeau fiscal des citoyens. Les impacts sont nombreux. Lorsque j'ai publié en décembre dernier, la décision du conseil municipal du Village de Fort-Coulonge, de fermer la bibliothèque municipale, j'ai rarement reçu autant de commentaires pour un article et c'est compréhensible. Pensons aussi aux problèmes d'aqueduc et d'eau potable qui touchent de nombreuses municipalités (Portage-du-Fort, L'Île-du-Grand-Calumet, Fort-Coulonge, etc.) et qui provoquent plusieurs avis d'ébullition chaque année dans le Pontiac.

Les élus municipaux subissent souvent le « pelottage » des décisions des niveaux supérieurs de gouvernement. Il faut sérieusement se mettre à réfléchir à des solutions à long terme. Certains citoyens ont parlé de fusion, d'autres d'ententes intermunicipales ou de partage des coûts. Chaque cas est différent, il faut une analyse plus large. Ce ne sont pas des problèmes uniques au Pontiac. La MRC Papineau, la Vallée-de-la-Gatineau ou encore la MRC du Val St-François en Estrie vivent des situations similaires. Le gouvernement provincial, incluant les partis d'oppositions, en concertation avec le monde municipal devraient s'y pencher sérieusement. Disons que c'est en ayant une réflexion, non pas à court, mais à long terme qu'il faut avoir si on veut éviter de voir à nouveau les livres disparaître dans une de nos bibliothèques du Pontiac.

## NOUVELLES DE L'ECOLE – SCHOOL NEWS

**PHS FILM FESTIVAL** – Pontiac High School (PHS) held their second annual film festival before the holidays showcasing some terrific student films; the festival was organized by teacher Jordan Kent. According to the PHS Face Book page, Grade 11 students screened films that they created for English class, based on poems. The festival event celebrated their hard work and artistic talent. A trailer can be seen at [https://youtu.be/\\_u2S7Jmz4L4](https://youtu.be/_u2S7Jmz4L4), and the links to the films are available on the PHS Facebook page.

The winners of the festival were: **Best Cinematography:** William Dale - "Self-Portrait"; **Best Director:** Laura Mayhew - "Headwinds"; **Best Artistic Vision:** Sid Sharpe - "Comfort"; **People's Choice:** Evan Rebertz-Laroche - "I Feel the Sun"; **Best Storytelling:** Peyton Ireland - "Comfort"

**PHOTO:** Laura Mayhew, who won for Best Director in the PHS Film Festival.

**SCHOOL NEWS** will be a regular page 4 feature, highlighting some of the recent activities at PHS and ESSC, alternating issues. If any businesses are interested in sponsorship, this could be expanded to every issue; contact us. Our reporter, Peter Smith, will continue his usual coverage of DWKS news.

**NOUVELLES DE L'ECOLE** sera un article régulier en page 4, mettant en avant certaines des activités récentes de PHS et ESSC, en alternance. Si des entreprises sont intéressées par un parrainage, celui-ci pourrait être étendu à tous les numéros; contactez-nous. Notre reporter, Peter Smith, poursuivra sa couverture habituelle de l'actualité du DWKS.



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## Affordable housing is a top priority for 2023



Justin  
**PREST**

ÉDITORIALISTE INVITÉE  
GUEST EDITORIALIST

The Pontiac is a vast wilderness, cherished for its rich forests, beautiful lakes, community activities, and welcoming people. No wonder many young families have recently moved to the Pontiac in hopes of a more balanced lifestyle surrounded by fresh air and nature. An important part of the attraction to the region is the important work that has been put into infrastructure renewal, but more needs to be done. With an electric car, you can somewhat comfortably travel throughout the Pontiac without worrying about running out of charge—as long as you know where you're going. With multiple reliable fast chargers on its territory and supposedly more coming, it is actually in a position to be a leader in rural transportation electrification. That makes the region very attractive to environmentally minded families and professionals alike. Add to that improved community centres, including the proposed public swimming pool complex and you can see that the Pontiachas some positive things happening.

However, the availability of housing—whether to rent or to buy—is dismal. The MRC seems focused on rebooting the forestry industry in the region but should be equally focused on community-building

by investing in new housing and regional resource hubs (think groceries, medical, etcetera) or by lobbying the provincial government to do so. Warden Jane Toller proudly touts the upcoming pay-per-use pool and recreation centre, which will undoubtedly help the health and wellbeing of many of our residents and should be applauded, but more really needs to be done to modernize the Pontiac in order to preserve its character and ecosystems, while making it a viable option for young families looking to settle down in the region—not just those looking to retire.

Affordable, modern, energy-efficient, and safe housing is becoming more and more difficult to find in a region that was already marked by a significant shortage before the COVID-19 pandemic hit. Data at the “nearby” Children’s Hospital of Eastern Ontario suggests a baby surge since the beginning of the pandemic. Many of those undoubtedly proud new parents are from the Pontiac. These parents, who already had to travel out-of-region or out-of-province for obstetrics care, deserve access to healthcare in their own communities and safe, healthy affordable housing in which to raise their families.

These issues of safe, affordable, and quality housing are ignored at the peril of our communities. Now is the time for the MRC to step up its community planning in order to continue to effectively support the growing population relying on its stewardship.

I'm looking forward to see what 2023 brings.



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# LETTERS

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## Reduce inflation by paying less!

It is clear that due to out of control spending and poor negotiation, federal and most provincial bureaucracies' salaries in Canada have ballooned. In Ontario, the amount of workers on the Sunshine List (those making over \$100,000 a year) has grown from 4,494 in 1996 to a whopping 244,390 making that amount last year. There are 54 times more people on the list now. As a result of the government essentially printing money to pay such salaries, inflation has gone up and up.

Ontario's recent Education Workers strike/political action highlighted the poorest government workers, but what about these 250k workers at the top? Do they need access to a food bank, like the poorest education workers, or can we assume that they are swimming in money? I assume the latter. So cut their salaries drastically!

Make the poor richer, and make the rich poorer, this is the mantra of a progressive taxation system that takes more from the wealthy. But what is taken from the rich 250,000 government of Ontario employees? Nothing (except tax). There should be a "sunshine surcharge". All moneys earned over \$100k should be considered excessive, so that 20k over \$100k in one year, should be considered like \$100K minus 20k the next year. So every employee who made \$120k last year should receive \$80k this year for the same amount of work. This is to make up for the 20k they shouldn't have been paid.

If they leave or retire, then more room for younger employees. And don't rehire. Down with the bureaucracy sucking off the fat of taxpayers, off with their parasitic ways, off with their monopolistic self-interested control of the civil service.

Take the universities ... an English

professor made \$100k 20 years ago, but then steadily increased to \$200k a year. Are his skills so in demand and hard to find that you need to pay him 2 million of the course of 20 years? No. Pay the professor \$60,000 and you will get the same result. There is no qualitative improvement from spending more than \$60k on a professor, or on any course instructor. If all educational institutions lowered their salaries, it would save billions with no effect on the quality of education.

I call for a province- and Canada-wide pay freeze and pay reduction. The current salary of an Ontario MPP is \$116,500, which makes the MPP earn less than probably 200,000 other government employees. At the rate in which salaries are increasing, the janitor who cleans the washroom floor, the stablemate who collects dung from horses, and the Bovine Semen Collector will be making more than MPPs.

Cut these employees, cut the salaries, put the salaries into reverse, make those earning over \$100k taste what it feels like to be like the low-paying worker that the vast majority are. Convert rich bureaucrats into common workers.

In fact, restart the salaries of the entire bureaucracy! \$40k start, \$50 for special, \$60 for extra special. And it's that simple. Collect the \$20 or \$30 or \$100 billion in savings. If they don't like it they can quit, go to the U.S.

The only high paying jobs are for those where genuine brain drain can occur -- doctors and specialists who can go to the U.S. or elsewhere for more salary. If anyone can do their job, that job starts at 40k. Time to turn back the clock on government salaries, it is 1990 all over again. Pay 1990 salaries to reduce inflation to 1990 levels!

Robert Nelly  
WESTMEATH, ONT

## NDP to host housing round table

A number of social issues are clouding the future of people in West Quebec. Besides the need for a new hospital and better medical care, housing prices and lack of housing accessibility are a dead weight on the aspirations of young people.

Successive Liberal and Conservative governments have reneged on their responsibility to ensure that housing is a human right and needs to be kept as part of the social contract with citizens in Canada. Instead, they have enacted policies that passed the torch of housing to market forces.

Market forces have one over-arching

goal: making profits. The needs of first time home-buyers, senior citizens and their special needs, and families with children, are not the focus of people who see housing as an investment for profit making.

The Pontiac NDP is hosting a round table January 14, at 2 pm on housing, at UQO, on Tache Blvd in Hull. The session promises to be a much needed and interesting event, open to the public.

Hope to see you there.

Carl Hager  
GATINEAU / AYLMER

## Dites votre mot : Lettre à l'éditorial

Les lettres à l'éditeur du *Journal du Pontiac* sont lues par jusqu'à 20 000 personnes (faites correspondre les médias sociaux !) qui vivent dans votre communauté et partagent vos préoccupations. Quelques directives pour s'assurer que votre lettre sera publiée :

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N'importe quelle langue est acceptable... mais soyez clair, civil et convaincant, pas grossier.

Soyez court et concis : TOUTES les lettres sont révisées pour des raisons de grammaire, de ponctuation, d'orthographe, etc. et de longueur. Attendez-vous à ce

que votre lettre soit révisée.

Nous recevons de nombreuses lettres et l'espace est compté : ne vous répétez pas et n'ajoutez pas de commentaires inutiles.

Les lettres sont des opinions personnelles ; elles ne sont pas des articles d'actualité, ni des commentaires de ce journal. Nous acceptons les réponses à des lettres antérieures.

Nous n'acceptons pas les lettres faisant l'éloge ou la critique des entreprises locales. Nous n'acceptons pas les attaques personnelles, ni les articles promotionnels pour des candidats ou des partis politiques.

*Le rédacteur en chef*

## Le gouvernement devra aider les municipalités

À la suite du dépôt de la mise à jour économique et financière, la Fédération québécoise des municipalités (FQM) constate l'absence de mesures pour venir en aide aux municipalités. Bien que nos demandes aient été transmises au ministre des Finances, M. Éric Girard, celles-ci n'ont pas été intégrées au Bouclier anti-inflation du gouvernement.

On comprend que le gouvernement souhaite amoindrir l'impact de la hausse du coût de la vie sur la population. Cependant, à

titre de porte-parole des régions, nous souhaitons rappeler les importantes répercussions de l'inflation sur les municipalités du Québec. Sans aide, nos populations seront, notamment, confrontées à des augmentations de taxes. Il va sans dire que le gouvernement devra mettre en place de fortes mesures lors du budget 2023-2024 pour que les municipalités puissent continuer d'offrir des services de qualité aux citoyens.

**Jacques Demers, FQM**  
**Le préfet de la MRC de Memphrémagog**

## Les déchets sur le site de Chalk River

Notre politique alternative garantit que des plans détaillés d'élimination des déchets radioactifs seront préparés dès le début d'un projet. L'industrie ne doit pas poursuivre son approche hasardeuse de l'élimination des déchets, comme nous le

vivons actuellement sur le site de Chalk River, à côté de la rivière des Outaouais.

**Ole Hendrickson, Concerned Citizens of RENFREW COUNTY AND AREA PEMBROKE, ONT**

## Le problème de logement important

Un certain nombre de problèmes sociaux assombrissent l'avenir des habitants de l'Ouest du Québec. Outre le besoin d'un nouvel hôpital et de meilleurs soins médicaux, le prix des logements et le manque d'accessibilité au logement sont un poids mort pour les aspirations des jeunes.

Les gouvernements libéraux et conservateurs successifs ont renoncé à leur responsabilité de veiller à ce que le logement, en tant que droit humain, fasse partie du contrat social avec les citoyens du Canada. Ils ont plutôt adopté des politiques qui ont passé le flambeau du

logement aux forces du marché.

Les forces du marché ont un objectif primordial : faire des profits. Les besoins des acheteurs d'une première maison, des personnes âgées et de leurs besoins spéciaux, ainsi que des familles avec enfants, ne sont pas au centre des préoccupations des personnes qui consid-

èrent le logement comme un investissement à but lucratif.

Le NPD du Pontiac organise une table ronde sur le logement le 14 janvier, à 14 h, à l'UQO, sur le boulevard Tache à Hull. La session promet d'être un événement nécessaire et intéressant, ouvert au public.

**Carl Hager**  
GATINEAU

IL FAUT LIRE...

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Fred Ryan's Dispatches p. 21

# Depanneur Waltham closes its doors

PETER L. SMITH

**WALTHAM** – As of December 31, the town of Waltham no longer has a dépanneur, since owners Serge Chenier and Karine Caouette-Chenier closed their doors. The couple had operated the store and post office since April 2010 when they bought the business from Frank and Lorna Turner.

Two years of Covid resulted in a loss of income for the dépanneur and an attempt to sell the business didn't materialize. "We did have some very loyal customers throughout the years but could not keep the business

going any longer," commented Karine.

According to Waltham resident Betty Ryan, who wrote "Waltham, A Gem in Pontiac County", the first store was built in the 1920s and owned by James Labelle and Robert Johnson. The store was owned by a couple of generations of the Johnson family before Arthur Labelle and his wife Eileen purchased the Johnsons share in the store around 1955. Art and his wife sold the store to Romeo Belanger in 1969. Other families of Waltham owned and operated the business in the following years. At one time Waltham boasted three

general stores.

Waltham Mayor Odette Godin stressed, "It is always sad to see a business close down. It is especially hard to accept that for the first time in Waltham's history there will not be a general store."

The store closure also resulted in the municipality needing to find a new location for Waltham residents to receive mail. After discussion with Canada Post and the municipality, community mailboxes were erected near Paul Ryan Park on Main Street. Residents will need to use the Chapeau Post Office for all other mail-related services.



Depanneur Waltham



## Les maires de la MRC attribuent plus de 2 millions de dollars pour des projets locaux

Voici les récipiendaires du premier appel à projet dans le cadre des régions et fonds de ruralité (FRR, Volet 4) :

1. Municipalité de Fort-Coulonge — Piste Pump Track	100 000 \$
2. Municipalité de Mansfield — Halte plein air	100 000 \$
3. Municipalité de Campbell's Bay — Site récréatif	100 000 \$
4. Municipalité de l'Île-du-Grand-Calumet — Site récréatif et touristique	89 453.18 \$
5. Municipalité de Shawville — 150 <sup>e</sup> anniversaire et aménagement du Parc Mill Dam	90 000\$
6. Municipalité de Bryson — 150 <sup>e</sup> anniversaire et amélioration des sites touristiques	100 000 \$
7. Municipalité de Otter Lake — Aménagement du site récréatif	89 416.59 \$
8. Municipalité de Waltham — amélioration de sites récréatifs et installation d'enseignes	100 000 \$
9. Municipalité de Bristol — Vitalisation de la plage à Norway Bay	100 000 \$
10. Municipalité de Sheenboro — Vitalisation de la mise à l'eau à Fort-William	77 400 \$
11. Municipalité de l'Isle-aux-Allumettes — Aménagement du parc Centennial	100 000 \$
12. Municipalité de Chichester — Aménagement du parc municipal	100 000 \$
13. Municipalité de Alleyne-et-Cawood — revitaliser le parc municipal	100 000 \$
14. Municipalité de Rapides-des-Joachims — aménager le parc municipal	99 000,00 \$
15. MRC de Pontiac — Carrefour de transport MRC Pontiac	461 976 \$
16. MRC de Pontiac — Portail dynamique MRC Pontiac	35 000 \$
17. Le Patro de Fort-Coulonge/Mansfield — Mini putt	65 272.85 \$
18. Chapeau and District Lions Club — Amélioration de la cantine	40 252.50 \$
19. Fédération UPA Outaouais-Laurentides ALUS Outaouais	32 861.28 \$
20. Piscine Pontiac — Devis civil, structural, électrique et mécanique	225 000 \$
21. Le Jardin éducatif Pontiac — Bonification des infrastructures Serres	100 000 \$
22. Harrington Hall — Amélioration du système d'éclairage	4 217.38 \$
23. Complexe sportif du Haut Pontiac — amélioration des infrastructures de loisirs	99 000 \$
24. CRÉDETAO — Plateforme Agricole de Pontiac	100 000 \$
25. Le Domaine de la Belle et le Gentleman — Vignoble à Bristol	18 747.36 \$
26. Eskimo Escapade — Construction d'une halte de service au Domaine et préparation aire de camping à Danford	32 000 \$
27. Ferme Pure Conscience — Production œufs biologiques	28 872.50 \$
<b>TOTAL: 2 622 469.64 \$</b>	

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**Prochaines dates de ventes le 25 janvier 2023 et le 22 février 2023.**

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**Next sales are January 25, 2023 & February 22, 2023.**

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### MRC — from p. 2

#### Youth council

Jane Toller announced that the MRC Pontiac's Youth Council would return. Its inaugural meeting of 2023 will be held on

### MRC — de la p. 3

Puisque la MRC possède environ quarante pour cent de la forêt de l'Outaouais et que plusieurs entreprises d'autres régions ont profité de l'opportunité de récolter dans le Pontiac, il a été résolu que la MRC demande au ministre de s'assurer que des volumes adéquats de bois soient alloués et réservés aux usines situées dans le Pontiac.

Monday, January 16 at 6:30 p.m. in the MRC office. The Warden mentioned that there are 22 interested members this term and it is expected to grow to 25. She encouraged students from DWKS in Chapeau and ESSC in Mansfield to apply.

#### Conseil des jeunes

Jane Toller a annoncé le retour du Conseil des jeunes de la MRC de Pontiac. Sa réunion inaugurale de 2023 aura lieu le lundi 16 janvier à 18 h 30 dans le bureau de la MRC. La préfète mentionne qu'il y a 22 membres intéressés ce trimestre et qu'il devrait y en avoir 25. Elle encourage les étudiants de DWKS à Chapeau et de l'ESSC à Mansfield à poser leur candidature.

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# Le service d'incendie de Fort-Coulonge fête ses 65 ans

**FORT-COULONGE** — Le 13 décembre 2022, les membres du service d'incendie de Fort-Coulonge ont célébré leur 65e anniversaire au Club de l'Age d'or. Les pompiers anciens et actuels, leurs familles et les membres du conseil municipal étaient présents pour reconnaître plusieurs pompiers pour leurs années de service.

Dans une interview accordée à CHIP 101.9 FM, le chef des pompiers, Gaétan Fortin, et son chef adjoint, Gilles Dionne, ont parlé de l'histoire du service et des plans pour l'avenir.

« La municipalité a organisé cet événement pour marquer les différentes époques et l'évolution de ce service d'incendie. Actuellement, nous avons 25 pompiers. Nous en avons eu plus dans le passé, mais nous essayons de maintenir ce nombre, maintenant. Je suis dans le service depuis 26 ans, dont 15 ans comme chef, et Gilles a 33 ans de service », a déclaré M. Fortin.

« Il y a eu un grand incendie dans les années 20 ; c'est alors que les habitants ont commencé à travailler à la création d'un

service d'incendie », poursuit M. Fortin. « La brigade officielle a été lancée il y a 65 ans. Au début, il n'y avait pas beaucoup d'équipement et la communication se faisait à l'aide d'une cloche, pour informer les gens qu'il y avait un incendie. Tout a évolué à partir de là. Le gouvernement a aidé à former une brigade de pompiers officielle et a fourni davantage d'équipement. Nous avons toujours besoin de l'aide du gouvernement pour acheter des équipements et engager des pompiers. Pour embaucher et former un

seul pompier, nous avons besoin de 10 000 dollars. Nous sommes fiers de nos efforts pour créer un environnement sûr pour nos pompiers et pour acheter un camion, ce qui a nécessité deux ans de collecte de fonds. Nous travaillons toujours à l'obtention d'un meilleur équipement. Nous avons besoin d'un nouveau compresseur d'air et cela coûtera environ 70 000 \$ ; le dernier a fonctionné pendant plus de 30 ans pour nous. Nous sommes très fiers de l'équipe que nous avons constituée », a-t-il conclu. (MA)



Gaétan Fortin, le chef du service d'incendie de Fort-Coulonge et son chef adjoint Gilles Dionne.

FRANÇOIS CARRIER

**FORT-COULONGE** — Le procès pour meurtre au premier degré de John Mitchell Blake MacLennan dans la mort brutale de son propriétaire, Harold Plugowsky, s'est terminé le 14 décembre dernier avec le verdict selon lequel MacLennan n'était pas criminellement responsable en raison d'une maladie mentale. MacLennan a été accusé

du meurtre au premier degré de Plugowsky, 61 ans, qui a été retrouvé avec un traumatisme crânien grave à sa résidence de Fort-Coulonge en septembre 2020. Au moment de publié cet article, la Couronne avait encore quelques jours si jamais il décide d'appeler la décision.

Le procureur de la Couronne Simon Pelletier a expliqué que le verdict n'est pas la même chose qu'un acquittement.

MacLennan est actuellement détenu dans un hôpital psychiatrique et qu'une commission de révision tiendra une

audience dans les 90 jours pour déterminer la marche à suivre.

— Suite in p. 9



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# Shawville mayor defends lack of council minutes publication

MARYAM AMINI

**SHAWVILLE** – Questions were recently raised on social media about the lack of publication of Shawville council's meeting minutes on the municipality's website, since April 2022. Mayor Bill McCleary defended the decision behind not publishing, stating: "According to the rules we do not have to publish the minutes; however, they must be provided. If someone asks for them, we will send them. We don't publish the minutes because they need to be published in both languages. We used to spend \$500 to \$600 per month on translation. Now we can use this money for something else. We have about 1,500 residents in Shawville and until now only 3 people have asked for the minutes. One person posted something on social media and suddenly this became an issue. I think that was misleading."

The mayor added: "We provide the minutes upon request. Residents can call, email or even come to the office. They can also come to the meetings to ask about the decisions. Nobody shows up. We rarely get visitors. Nobody seems to care as long as the taxes are not going up. Now someone is translating the minutes for publication. If there are requests and we have someone bilingual on staff, we will consider publishing

the minutes."

André Fortin, Pontiac's MNA commented: "Municipalities don't have big budgets for their different projects, so they try to save money in different ways. This might affect their transparency. They can provide the minutes in other ways. For instance, they could record the meeting and publish the recording. Provincial government helps but their help is not good enough. I would be happy to bring the subject of translation costs to the provincial government."

There was also a question raised on social media about the possible increase in the cost for water in Shawville. "Residents already pay a fee for water on their tax bill. There won't be anything unusual happening with that, this year," said McCleary. "The provincial government had a plan to install water meters in business properties by 2025 and then they postponed it to 2029. We have purchased six water meters because of the original mandate. This is not today's problem, and it is not affecting taxes." He added that the reason taxes went up this year is because of inflation, citing "it was inevitable. We tried our best to put less pressure on taxpayers by using some of our surplus to cover our expenses."



## GUIGNOLEE ANNUELLE DES CHEVALIERS DE COLOMB

Le vendredi, 16 décembre, les Chevaliers de Colomb 7221 ont organisé leur guignolée annuelle. Grand Chevalier, Gerard Romain, nous avise que plus de soixante-dix bénévoles sont venues en aide aux chevaliers, soit à la collecte des denrées à travers Fort-Coulonge et Mansfield ou au triage et vérification des dates d'expiration des items à la salle des chevaliers. Cette année cent trois familles reçoivent des paniers de Noël grâce à la générosité de la population locale. Une généreuse somme d'argent a été reçue pour l'achat de dinde, du lait, du pain, des pommes de terre et des tourtières. Tous les achats des entreprises locales et la balance vont aller aux familles en besoin durant l'année. Le responsable des bénévoles à la collecte des denrées était M. Ken Hobbs et M. Jeannot Bilodeau était le responsable du triage à l'intérieur de la salle. M. Romain aimerait remercier tous les bénévoles et la population pour leur générosité encore cette année. (GF)

**PHOTO :** Des bénévoles trient la nourriture collectée lors de la Gignolée annuelle, en vue de la livraison des paniers de Noël. De gauche à droite, Marjorie Romain, Lise O'Reilly, Lorraine Amyotte-Desjardins, Pierrette Fortin, Carl Labine, Marie Boisvert et Gérard Morisette.



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# Stedmans building – looking for new owners

NIKKI BUECHLER

**SHAWVILLE** – The familiar and established icon, Stedmans V&S department store, has been a mainstay in Shawville's retail district for as long as most people can remember; recently, the building was put up for sale. Rhonda Meisner, the current manager, has been there almost as long. "I started working here when I was 12, helping my parents," she recalled. "Now it's my parents helping me manage the store."

The decision to move on is a big change for Meisner, but she insists the time has come. "For the last twenty-five years I really haven't had a chance to do much aside from run this business," she explained. "The store is a big responsibility, and it demands a lot from me."

There are additional factors that influenced her decision to try and sell. "The way people shop now, since the pandemic—it's different," Meisner explained. "People are buying more and more

from online retailers. Most 'brick and mortar' stores aren't seeing the usual patterns in the way people shop—holiday shopping over the last few years hasn't been as active as it was in past years. Over time, we've seen a gradual decrease in revenue, due to online stores like Amazon, or giant, impersonal outlets like Walmart."

Meisner insists the store will remain open until they find a buyer for the building. But customers will eventually notice a change in available inventory. "I'll be doing minimal ordering and restocking, so some departments will start to have less variety," she explained. "We have a lot of regular customers, and we know what they come in for—greeting cards, stationery and toys are daily sales. I'll make sure we have what they need."

In fact, Meisner is actively seeking a full-time employee. "I need someone who can help Jodi Peck with the day-to-day activities here. Jodi has been here longer than me—but neither of us speak sufficient French; I need

les témoignages d'experts psychiatriques de l'accusation et de la défense qui ont interrogé MacLennan.

Me Pelletier a ajouté que bien que le processus ait pris plus de deux ans et ait nécessité un deuxième procès, le processus était relativement rapide. En vertu de la Charte des droits et libertés, les citoyens ont le droit d'être jugés dans un « délai raisonnable ». Selon larrêt Jordan de la Cour suprême, cela signifie, à quelques exceptions près, qu'il y a un plafond de 30 mois entre le moment où quelqu'un est inculpé et le moment où son procès peut avoir lieu, ou 18 mois s'il n'y a pas d'enquête préliminaire.

## Meurtre — de la p. 7

Son statut sera revu périodiquement (généralement une fois par an) afin de déterminer s'il restera dans l'établissement ou si ses conditions seront modifiées. Pelletier a déclaré que la Couronne participera à ces délibérations et a souligné que la sécurité du public est primordiale dans ces discussions.

Me Pelletier a précisé que le jury avait délibéré pendant quatre jours avant de prendre la décision, qui devait être unanime. Leur décision était basée sur les témoignages de témoins qui ont rencontré MacLennan sur les lieux, ainsi que sur



Rhonda Meisner has been involved in running Stedmans V&S on Main Street, Shawville for over 25 years.

someone who can," said Meisner.

French language laws in Quebec are problematic for businesses, acknowledged Meisner. "I really don't know what the government is hoping to achieve with these rules, but making business owners comply with restrictive language laws creates additional fear and hardship. It's a factor in my decision," she concluded. "Amazon will take your money in any language."

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## OPINION

# Which Cabinet Ministers Have Been Entrusted with the Challenging Tasks of Improving Education in the New Year and Beyond?



The appointment of new Ministers of Education, of Higher Education, of Families, and of Youth in Québec may very well delay delivering the improvements necessary to counter the persistent challenges that have existed over recent decades in education.

Bernard Drainville, elected as the Coalition avenir Québec Member of the National Assembly for Lévis is the new Minister of Education and the Minister Responsible for the Chaudière-Appalaches Region.

Drainville served as the Parti Québécois MNA for Marie-Victorin from 2007 until 2016 and was the Minister Responsible for Democratic Institutions and Active Citizenship in the cabinet of Premier Pauline Marois. Drainville was the sponsor on November 7, 2013, of Government Bill 60, the *Charter affirming the values of State secularism and religious neutrality and of equality between women and men, and providing a framework for accommodation requests*.

Pascale Déry, the rookie MNA for Repentigny, has been appointed Minister of Higher Education. Déry has the responsibilities related to implementing the sections of Government Bill 96, *An Act respecting French, the official and common language of Québec*, that are applicable to CEGEPs and universities. Suzanne Roy, the rookie MNA for Verchères, has been appointed Minister of Families and Minister Responsible for the Montérégie Region. Roy has inherited the difficulties of implementing the dossiers of four-year old kindergartens as well as the expansion of daycare services.

Mathieu Lacombe, MNA for Papineau, was re-elected and is happy with his promotion as Minister of Culture and Communications, but perhaps less so with being Minister Responsible for Youth after struggling at times with the portfolio of Minister of Families during the last four years. Lacombe is also Minister Responsible for the Outaouais Region and the Abitibi-Témiscamingue Region.

Isabelle Charest, MNA for Brome-Missisquoi, was re-elected and appointed Minister Responsible for Sports, Recreation, and the Outdoors, basically the same responsibilities she had during the last four years under the titles of Minister for Education as well as Minister Responsible for the Status of Women.

Christopher Skeete, MNA for Sainte-Rose, was re-elected and appointed Minister for the Economy, Minister Responsible for the Fight Against Racism, and Minister Responsible for the Laval Region. During his first term in office, Skeete had served as Parliamentary Assistant to the Premier for Relations with English-Speaking Quebecers, and Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister Responsible for the Fight Against Racism.

Eric Girard, MNA for Groulx, was re-elected and re-appointed Minister of Finance and appointed Minister Responsible for Relations with English-Speaking Quebecers relieving Premier François Legault of the cabinet responsibility which has proven to be more and more time-consuming, and many would also say much more controversial when reviewing Government Bills 21, 40, and 96 receiving royal assent over the last three years.

Suzanne Tremblay, the rookie CAQ MNA for Hull, has been appointed a Member of

*Continued on page 12*

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## PUBLIREPORTAGE

# LA BOITE SANTÉ

## La quercétine pour une immunité forte



Marie Couture, ND.A  
Naturopathe diplômée agréée

La quercétine fait partie de la famille des flavonoïdes, qui viennent spécifiquement de pigments végétaux qu'on peut reconnaître par leur couleur vive et que l'on retrouve dans les fruits et les légumes. Les aliments les plus riches en quercétine sont : les câpres, le piment jaune, le cacao en poudre, les oignons rouges, les cassis et la pomme avec la peau (bio), etc. Ces précieux pigments ont de nombreux effets sur l'organisme et le principal est de renforcer la paroi des capillaires dont les plus petits vaisseaux sanguins et de réduire leur perméabilité. Les flavonoïdes sont des antioxydants qui neutralisent les effets instables des radicaux libres. La quercétine piège les radicaux libres.

### Les bienfaits de la quercétine

Au moyen de nombreuses études, la quercétine aurait la capacité de soutenir une santé à large spectre dont le système cardiovasculaire, immunitaire, ostéoarticulaire, circulatoire et sanguin, etc. :

- En inhibant l'oxydation des lipoprotéines à faible densité (cholestérol LDL)
- En modulant les marqueurs inflammatoires (arthrite)

- En soutenant l'activité normale des plaquettes
- En inhibant certains virus de rhume et de grippe
- En maîtrisant la production d'histamines (allergies, rhinites allergiques)
- En protégeant l'intégrité des capillaires

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# THE HEALTH BOX

## Quercetin for strong immunity



Marie Couture, ND.A  
Certified naturopath

Quercetin is a member of the flavonoid family, which comes specifically from plant pigments that can be recognized by their bright colour and are found in fruit and vegetables. The foods richest in quercetin are: capers, yellow pepper, cocoa powder, red onions, blackcurrants and apples with skin (organic), etc. These valuable pigments have many effects on the body, the main one being to strengthen the walls of the capillaries, including the smallest blood vessels, and to reduce their permeability. Flavonoids are antioxidants that neutralize the unstable effects of free radicals. Quercetin scavenges free radicals.

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- By modulating inflammatory markers (arthritis)
- Supporting normal platelet activity

- Inhibiting certain cold and flu viruses
- Controlling histamine production (allergies, allergic rhinitis)
- Protecting the integrity of capillaries

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## OPINION

### Which Cabinet Ministers Have Been Entrusted with the Challenging Tasks of Improving Education in the New Year and Beyond?

Continued from page 10

the National Assembly Committee on Culture and Education.

It will be a daunting task for the three opposition parties to attempt during the daily Question Period to force the majority CAQ Government holding 90 of the 125 seats in the National Assembly of Québec to act in an expeditious fashion to address the most pressing of the issues in education.

André Fortin, Québec Liberal Party MNA for Pontiac, is the Official Opposition Critic for the Outaouais Region and the Abitibi-Témiscamingue Region among other dossiers, and has been elected as Chairman of the National Assembly Committee on Culture and Education.

Marwah Rizqy, QLP MNA for Saint-Laurent, is the Official Opposition Critic for Education and Higher Education as well as for Infrastructure among other dossiers and has been appointed as a Member of the Committee on Culture and Education.

Michelle Setlakwe, QLP MNA for Mont Royal-Outremont, is the Official Opposition Critic for Access to Information and

the Protection of Personal Information, for Culture and Communications, for Cybersecurity and Digital Technology, for International Relations and La Francophonie, among other dossiers and has also been appointed as a Member of the Committee on Culture and Education.

Ruba Ghazal, Québec solidaire MNA for Mercier, is the Second Opposition Group Critic for Education, for the Status of Women, for Culture and Communications, and for the French Language and has also been appointed as a Member of the Committee on Culture and Education.

And le Parti Québécois with only three MNAs elected has not achieved party status in the National Assembly, so PQ Leader Paul St-Pierre Plamondon, MNA for Camille-Laurin and Leader of the Third Opposition Group, Pascal Bérubé, MNA for Matane-Matapedia, and Joël Arseneau, MNA for Îles-de-Madeleine, will be allowed to rotate when the PQ is scheduled to ask a question during daily Question Period.

### NOUS INSTALLONS AU MAZOUT, À L'ÉLECTRICITÉ ET AU GAZ NATUREL



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## Le Bulletin d'Aylmer présente son premier salon d'exposition de l'année : *La magie de l'amour*



Sophie Demers

La population est invitée à venir célébrer l'amour sous toutes ses formes lors du premier salon d'exposition de 2023 du *Bulletin d'Aylmer*, qui aura lieu le samedi 11 février de 12 h à 18 h, au Centre Aydelu (94, rue du Patrimoine). Le salon réunira sous un même toit des entreprises locales qui œuvrent dans l'organisation d'événements tels que les mariages, fiançailles, anniversaires et célébrations diverses. Venez rencontrer des professionnels du secteur et échanger avec eux!

Le nombre de places étant limité, les entreprises qui souhaitent participer au salon en tant qu'exposants sont invitées à manifester leur intérêt d'ici le 20 janvier. Il s'agit d'une occasion idéale pour développer votre réseau et nouer des liens avec les

*Suite à la page suivante*



### SAVE THE DATE

**Aylmer Bulletin back with the first trade show of 2023: The magic of Love**



Sophie Demers

Everyone is invited to the *Aylmer Bulletin's* first trade show of 2023, *The magic of Love!* The theme of the trade show is love. The event will gather various local businesses needed for organizing events such as weddings, proposals, anniversaries, celebrations and more, all in one convenient location in the heart of Aylmer. Participants can look forward to meeting and connecting with the community and local businesses.

*Continued on next page*

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# Le Bulletin d'Aylmer présente son premier salon d'exposition de l'année : *La magie de l'amour*

## Suite de la page précédente

membres de la communauté. Pour de plus amples renseignements sur la façon de participer au salon d'exposition *La magie de l'amour*, composer le 819 684-4755 ou envoyer un courriel au pub@bulletinaylmer.com.

Le *Bulletin d'Aylmer* versera toutes les recettes du bar payant à La Popote Roulante d'Aylmer. La Popote Roulante est un organisme à but non lucratif dont la mission est de venir en aide aux personnes en perte d'autonomie ou en convalescence en leur livrant à

domicile des repas équilibrés à faible coût, favorisant ainsi leur maintien à domicile. Les bénévoles sont essentiels au bon fonctionnement de l'organisme, contribuant à lutter contre l'insécurité alimentaire et à vaincre l'isolement d'une partie de la communauté. Trad. : MET

## SAVE THE DATE

# **Aylmer Bulletin back with the first trade show of 2023: The magic of Love**

# FESTIVAL du *Passe-temps* ET DU MODÉLISME

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Photo - Evan Karka

## Continued from previous page

Come out on Saturday, February 11 from 12 pm to 6 pm to celebrate love in all its forms! The event will be held at the Aydelu Centre located at 94 Patrimoine Street. The event is perfect for those looking to plan or attend an event in 2023.

Businesses interested in being exhibitors at the trade show can apply until January 20. There are limited spots available. Don't miss this opportunity to connect with clients and get involved in your community. For more information on becoming an exhibitor at *The magic of Love* trade show, call 819-684-4755 or email pub@bulletinaylmer.com

The *Aylmer Bulletin* will be supporting Aylmer Meals on Wheels, with all the profit made from the cash bar at the trade show going to that organization. Meals on Wheels is a bilingual volunteer-based non-profit community support service that delivers nutritious meals at very low costs to seniors and to adults with disabilities. This service helps them maintain their health and independence at home. The volunteers play a vital role in addressing food security and reducing isolation and they offer peace of mind for clients and their families.

## Oh là, là...



AU BULLETIN,  
ON FAVORISE  
LES ÉCHANGES



Bien que nous recevons des dizaines de lettres à l'éditeur à chaque semaine, nous aimerais connaître **votre** opinion.  
Écrivez-nous sur des sujets d'actualité qui vous touchent.  
Après tout, le Bulletin, c'est votre journal et votre voix médiatique !  
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**bulletin**  
d'Aylmer

# My New Year's Hopes



## Our Environment

By Katharine Fletcher

There're gone! Christmas and New Year's are a *fait accompli* and now we're all wondering about those resolutions.

According to Time2Play researchers, data indicates "that as many as 14.1 per cent of Canadians welcome the new year without setting resolutions at all, and for those who do, almost 70 per cent fail to stick with their resolutions." ([bit.ly/3GG3Fia](https://bit.ly/3GG3Fia))

Which Canadians do best at keeping their resolutions? The average is 4.7 months, where Newfoundland and Labrador residents' goals last an average of six months. We Quebecers come in a respectable third, at 5.1 months.

Although I'm one of the 14.1% of Canadians who don't make formal resolutions, I have goals.

What are my hopes for 2023?

### GATINEAU PARK LEGISLATION

Did you know that Gatineau Park is not a protected Park? Although organizations and individuals have been lobbying for its

protection for years, there is no official Park legislation or protection.

I was a member of the 2020 Gatineau Park Master Plan Advisory Committee (Plan approved in January 2021) and, from September 2020 to June, 2022, I served on the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society-Ottawa Valley's (CPAWS-OV's) Gatineau Park Committee. In these advocacy roles, I strongly lobbied for Park protection via Zoom meetings with NCC and Gatineau Park staff, where my oft-repeated, strong recommendation to the NCC and CPAWS-OV Committee was that the NCC must create legally surveyed Park boundaries.

We cannot properly protect a park whose boundaries are vague.

Will a survey be done? Will the Park be legally protected in 2023? I have no idea other than understanding from Pontiac MP Ms Chatel that she hopes protection will go through.

Why not become a lobbyist for the protection of Gatineau Park? Write to Pontiac MP Sophie Chatel: [sophie.chatel@parl.gc.ca](mailto:sophie.chatel@parl.gc.ca)

After all, Ms Chatel strongly advocates for a Green and Prosperous Outaouais. What better way to demonstrate this than to see the federal, Liberal Government of Canada recognize Gatineau Park by legislative protection?

### PROTECTION OF PONTIAC'S FORESTS, WETLANDS

Another prominent wished-for change of status I'd like to see is the protection of our region's wetlands and forests via more appropriate municipal by-laws.

Currently, land can be developed for agricultural and industrial purposes where forests can be clearcut for cropland and industrial enterprises such as sandpits.

Just as I wrote in 2022, supposedly, the preservation of biodiversity is of immense, worldwide significance, as indicated by our Regional as well as International COP15 for Biodiversity.

In Ontario, Doug Ford's Conservative government just removed almost 3,000 hectares from the Greenbelt. It will be developed for housing and roads, box stores: the infrastructure of suburban life.

We mustn't feel smug in Quebec. Here in the Pontiac, forests will be cut because the first of three mills will open. (The first opened in late 2022 at Rapides de Joachims.)

On the one hand, jobs. On the other hand, biodiversity obliterated by clearcutting.

How do we achieve balance? Who champions biodiversity protection? We mustn't "just" look to saving something remote like the Amazon Rainforest.

What's far more challenging than offshore lobbying is actually protecting what's next

door, because our friends and neighbours are employed or sympathetic to the status quo.

Who speaks for preservation of Pontiac's spectacular biodiversity? The Nature Conservancy of Canada does a great job. Contact them to become a volunteer in biodiversity conservation: [bit.ly/3WN0wT3](https://bit.ly/3WN0wT3)

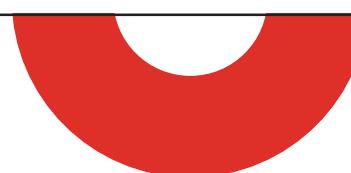
### PROTECTION OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

Here at my home, Spiritwood, my husband Eric and I hope to be able to preserve our land as a green space. It's challenging to navigate the options.

Last year I wrote about Ken and Debbie Rubin successfully donating their land to ACRE so that it would be protected from housing and other development. (Read my Pontiac Journal column: [bit.ly/3jNqNID](https://bit.ly/3jNqNID))

My husband Eric and I are committed to doing something similar, to ensure Spiritwood remains a haven for wildlife. We're not alone: many friends are equally committed. Watch this space for more information as we learn more.

Katharine Fletcher is a strong advocate for the preservation of biodiversity. She is a writer, author and visual artist. Contact her at: [fletcher.katharine@gmail.com](mailto:fletcher.katharine@gmail.com)



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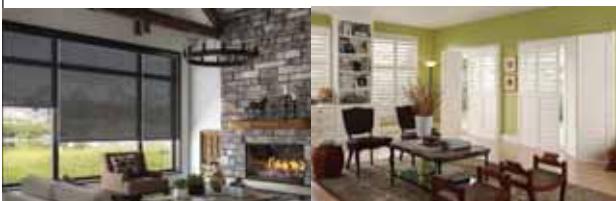
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## Sébastien Bonnerot, new president of Pontiac Chamber of Commerce

NIKKI BUECHLER

**MRC PONTIAC** — The Pontiac Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors has selected a new president. Sébastien Bonnerot volunteered for the two-year term following Todd Hoffman's decision to step aside. Hoffman will remain on the board as vice-president. Bonnerot was also voted as the best Real Estate agent in the *Pontiac Journal's* Reader's Choice awards, held in September 2022.

Originally from Ottawa, Bonnerot moved with his family to Fort-Coulonge in 2017; he holds a Bachelor of Health Sciences from the University of Ottawa and a Master's Degree in coaching from York University. He has over 20 years of business experience including 12 years as a vocational rehabilitation consultant and 10 years as a real estate broker, agency owner and investor. He understands business well and says he appreciates the strong sense of community in the



SUBMITTED

Sebastien Bonnerot (third from left) stands with the rest of the Chamber of Commerce board of directors. Bonnerot is the new president of the board.

Pontiac. As a realtor, Bonnerot has a pragmatic approach to business, but also an understanding of what is happening in the Pontiac. "There is a lot of physical distance between people here, which presents a challenge for people running businesses in this region," he explained.

Bonnerot intends to steer the Chamber toward collaborative efforts with other service providers in the Pontiac, so that Chamber members will have greater opportunities for networking

and educational events. "In a city it's a lot easier to connect with other businesses. Here, it will require some effort, but we will be partnering with other organizations to create more local opportunities and connections between people."

Networking will be more easily achieved if the Chamber has more members and Bonnerot would like to double membership from its current size of about one hundred. He will also be initiating changes to the Chamber website in order

to make membership application easier.

There is optimism that his leadership at the Chamber will benefit local businesses. "To be honest, I believe Sébastien will do a great job," said Hoffman, the former president. "Exciting things are in store with the Chamber." Chamber Director General, Jessica Forgues, stated, "His business experience and education will stimulate the day-to-day discussions and activities of our organization. We welcome him."

**READERS' CHOICE  
BEST OF THE PONTIAC**



**Café 349: a warm and cozy spot for lunch**

Cafe 349 offers the warmth and comfort Shawville needs in the cold Canadian winter — not only by offering delicious homemade food including daily specials, but with congeniality and ambiance. Their greeting is friendly, and the atmosphere sophisticated yet cozy.

Original artwork for members of artPontiac (Pontiac Artists' Association) adorns the walls, and there are baked goods on display at the counter. Pottery, jams and jellies, made by local artisans, are for sale on the shelves along the wall. There is a sense this place has been shaped by the local community, which explains why they won first place in the 2022

*Pontiac Journal* Readers' Choice awards, for the best place to eat out in eastern Pontiac. Over the years the Café has won numerous awards, which they proudly display for customers to see.

As well as in-house dining the Café does take-out orders for those wanting a meal on the run or to take home and caters for special events; it is also responsible for the lunch program at Dr. S.E. McDowell elementary school, in town.

Brandi Hahn, proprietor Ruth Hahn's daughter, was busy during the lunch hour rush, but took a moment to state: "We are really grateful to the community for their continued support."



Brandi Hahn and Julianne Dooks get ready to serve lunch at Café 349 on Main Street, Shawville.  
**(NB)**

**CHRISTMAS IN UPPER PONTIAC**

Santa and his elf made an early visit to some kids in the Upper Pontiac, the week before Christmas, bringing little stocking stuffers for them and a treat for the parents.

**PHOTO:** The O'Brien family get a visit from Santa.

**SANTA PARADE  
AN ENORMOUS SUCCESS**

The Municipality of Alleyn & Cawood held their second annual Santa Claus Parade, on Saturday, December 10, which was bigger and better attended than the first edition. The parade ran from the municipal offices to Henry Heeney Memorial Park, where children could greet Santa and receive a gift. The municipality thanked all those who participated, including the volunteers who organized the event, the businesses and families who made floats and all those who came to watch. "It was an enormous success," they stated on the municipal Facebook page. Winners for Best Floats were: First place to Derek Gabie & Family, with their float "Toy Workshop"; second place to Gary Johnson & Johnson Auto Wreckers; and the St. Jean / Cardinal Families placed third with their float the "Live Nativity." Job well done, everyone.

**Pontiac municipalities affirm bilingual language status**

CARL HAGER

**CAMPBELL'S BAY** – Fifteen Pontiac municipalities have approved, or will soon approve, resolutions in council to maintain their official bilingual status, according to Warden Jane Toller. These resolutions are required by the provisions of the contentious Bill 96, "an act respecting French, the official and common language of Quebec" passed in the National Assembly last June.

Pontiac municipalities represent 15 of the 90 towns in Quebec that can accede to this benefit even though their English-speaking population may be below 50% of residents. In December the government sent a notice reminding municipalities with substantial English-speaking communities of the necessity to approve bilingualism status resolutions if they want to retain the right to

provide services in French and English.

Mayor Bill McCleary indicated that Shawville council approved a resolution at the May 25, 2021, meeting to "maintain the bilingual status that was recognized for them under section 29.1 of the Charter of the French language." Roger Larose, mayor of the Municipality of Pontiac said his council will be approving a resolution that, "acknowledges the bilingual status of the Municipality of Pontiac" at the January council meeting.

Only three Pontiac municipalities do not qualify for the "bilingual" status: Fort-Coulonge, Mansfield-et-Pontefract, and L'Isle-du-Grand-Calumet. These municipalities, however, are expected to maintain some level of service for English-speaking residents.

The bilingual status resolutions enable municipalities to serve their

residents in both French and English languages. Failure to do that means that municipalities could legally only provide communication services in French, Quebec's common language. Services such as road signage, mail communication to residents and explanations in English at the municipal office can be done in English, as well as in French, if the municipality approves its bilingual status.

The provisions of Bill 96 were meant to bolster the use of French in Quebec shops and other businesses. The Canadian government tabled Bill C-13, "An act to amend the official languages act" last spring to affirm support and protection for minority languages in Canada: support for the English community in Quebec, and French for residents living in other provinces of Canada.

**LA FERME NORTHFORK WELCOMES IN 2023**

Saturday evening, December 31, was a first for La Ferme Northfork as they hosted a New Year's Eve dinner from 5 to 10 pm. Mild weather ensured that drivers didn't have to contend with dangerous winter driving conditions.

The evening meal included a choice of appetizers, two choices of entrees plus vegetarian lasagna with a selection of desserts and coffee or tea. The event was BYOB. More events are in the works for the year-round venue.

(PS)

**CHRISTMAS CONCERT AT ECOLE STE-MARIE**

The R.A. Hall in Otter Lake was filled with proud parents and families for the annual Christmas Concert in Ecole Ste-Marie on Friday, December 9. The concert was followed by a turkey lunch prepared by the OPP and served by the Otter Lake Golden Age Club. Tickets were sold for \$15 each, selling 75 tickets for the group of 125 people. Santa visited the excited children. Door prizes were donated by local businesses; winners were Eric Bourgon, Carolanne Petrin-Stafford, Olga Mykulich & Zoé Lafontaine.

(CAD)

**PHOTO:** Megan, Zoé & Talia Lafontaine



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# SENIORS' HEALTH & SAFETY



## MRC Pontiac has much to offer seniors

PETER L.SMITH

**MRC PONTIAC** – Seniors' policies are in place in many of Pontiac's 18 municipalities to ensure activities and services are available to keep their seniors active and living in their communities.

The Upper Pontiac has Residence Meilleur on L'Isle-aux-Allumettes playing an important role to help seniors continue living in their community, when they are no longer able or feel comfortable staying in their own home. This allows proximity to events hosted in the community as well as easy access to the local CLSC. Throughout the school year students from nearby Dr. Wilbert Keon School drop by to entertain.

The "Young at Heart Club" has an annual community supper including entertainment and the Upper Pontiac Sports



Shades of Sheen entertain for seniors in December 2022 at Daneens Home Care in Chichester

Complex is available for skating. The Chapeau Regionale Gallerie is very active during the summer months where seniors can meet up for tea. Ladies from Sheenboro, Allumette Island and Chichester are very involved with the Star Lite Quilters. Sheenboro organizes activities, some of which take place at Fort William during the summer months like trivia nights and line dancing. Chichester has the Culbute Museum where history comes alive as many seniors drop by and reminisce about earlier days and George's Regal Beagle is a venue many choose to enjoy Wednesday night fiddle music. Waltham also supports their seniors with an annual Christmas supper.

The Municipality of Fort-Coulonge has a private seniors residence geared towards assisted living plus

the Manoir de Sacre-Coeur where seniors receive full-time care. There is also the Club de l'age d'Or where seniors can meet to socialize. Chutes Coulonge is a great attraction as is the local golf course and plans are underway to build a local swimming pool facility.

Campbell's Bay set up a steering committee in 2021 to update their seniors' policy and the (MADA) action plan (Municipalité aime des ainés). There is also St-Joseph's Manor for those needing assisted living and the newly dedicated Maurice Beauregard Park will have seniors' specific components added this year. The R.A. Centre is also an important part of their infrastructure for seniors.

Otter Lake also an active Golden Age Club as does the Municipality of L'ile-du-Grand-Calumet where

activities include euchre games and bingo.

Shawville is a very active community for seniors with free Vie Active Exercise program for those 55 and over. Curling is another option and the senior's centre on Main Street has regular activities. Planning is ongoing for their senior's residence, Villa James Shaw.

In Bristol the golf course is very busy and the Norway pier is a draw for walks near the water. This past fall, the municipality gave several workshops, through a New Horizons for seniors' grant, about fire safety, avoiding fraud, computer training and services available through the CLSC, including home-care. Ski Pontiac has created several walking and skiing trails around Pine Lodge for those who enjoy those activities.

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### FIRE AT AUTOBUS LASALLE

A fire broke out at the AutoBus Lasalle garage, on the outskirts of Shawville, Friday night, January 6. The cause of the fire is still under investigation but is suspected to be electrical. Shawville Fire Chief, Lee Laframboise, stated: "Twenty five firefighters were involved in the operation. Fortunately there was nobody in the building, so no one was injured. A couple of buses and the structure of the roof of the garage are quite damaged. The only challenge we faced was that Hydro workers were delayed to help disconnect the hydro, because they were coming from Maniwaki; normally they would come from Campbell's Bay." **(M.A.)**



# SENIORS' HEALTH & SAFETY



CAD

## Commentary: Age friendly municipalities

CARL HAGER

Seniors are an increasingly large segment of Pontiac municipalities. It is time municipalities dusted off their "age friendly" policies and put some new vigour into them. Seniors in the Pontiac should be benefiting from municipal policies that help them live in their community, in their home, with dignity and respect.

TransporAction Pontiac is a good example of a government funded communal transportation service available to citizens who need to get to medical appointments, treatment centres and dentists.

However many seniors live in isolation, without nearby family, and may have either physical or psychological frailties that prevent them from being active members of their community. They may be unable to drive; they may not be conversant with the use of computers; they may be unable to go to many establishments, be they churches or restaurants, because there is no wheelchair access.

Age friendly municipalities have active policies that cater to the needs of senior citizens. About 10 years ago the Quebec government recognized the need for action on this front. As well, the experi-

ence with COVID-19 and senior residences raised questions about the adequacy of current support systems for seniors who want to live at home; there is help needed, especially for physical activities like snow clearing, grass cutting, house painting etc.

Municipalities need to consult their seniors to learn what is needed for a full and safe life within their community? The municipality must dedicate staff and time starting with an initial survey-consultation that is well-advertised so seniors can participate. Offering rides to these meetings is an example of a useful service.

Communicating in different ways about community events such as card game evenings or outings to events that allow greater social interaction, such as attending a performance of a local musician—all these and more assist seniors. Finding ways to provide information about local services, volunteer organizations and caregivers is another direct way of helping.

Making the Pontiac a special place to live for senior residents requires communication, diligent follow up and constant improvement to the age friendly policies of our 18 municipalities.

The Raymond Johnston Hall (R.A.) in Otter Lake was filled with excitement on Saturday, December 17 for the annual 50-Plus Club Christmas Party. The sold-out party featured a gift exchange, door prizes and a 50/50 draw. A traditional turkey supper was followed by a live band where guests enjoyed country music and square dancing on a packed dance floor.

"When I announced the party, I thought I might have a hard time getting 80 people, because we had to cancel last year's event due to Covid; but people were ready to come out and get together," said Janet Lafleur, the president of the 50-Plus committee. The tickets sold out at almost double.

"A big shout-out to Janet Lafleur and her supporting elves for organizing a most enjoyable Christmas party. The venue was filled to capacity. A festive & superb dinner was served by Rumours Cafe and the Denis Harrington band kept the dance floor crowded. It was an exceptionally good party," said Ken Kluge, the winner of 50/50 draw. **(CAD)**

**PHOTO:** The 50-Plus Christmas party at the Raymond Johnston Hall welcomed scores of guests to the sold out event.

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## 50-PLUS CHRISTMAS PARTY

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# SENIORS' HEALTH & SAFETY



## What you need to know about age-related hearing loss

Hearing problems can affect people of all ages. However, age-related hearing loss, or presbycusis, affects nearly half of all people who are 75 and older. Here's what you need to know about hearing loss as you get older.

### Cell degeneration

As you age, the tiny hair cells inside your ear can become damaged or die. Unfortunately, this causes progressive hearing loss.

However, hearing issues can also develop if the nerve pathways that carry information to your brain become less efficient. This can occur as a result of hereditary factors as well as various health conditions and taking certain medications.



In addition, diabetes, high blood pressure and heart disease can accelerate hearing loss.

### High-pitched sounds

Cell degeneration mainly affects the part of your ear responsible for hearing high-pitched sounds. Consequently, if you have presbycusis, you may be able to hear low-pitched noises but not register high-pitched ones.

Your brain will therefore need to work extra hard to fill in the information gaps, which can make communication difficult.

Regrettably, age-related hearing loss is permanent. However, solutions like wearing hearing aids can improve your quality of life.

To have your hearing tested, consult an audiologist.

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### COOKIE ELVES

The Upper Pontiac Cookie Elves were hard at work before Christmas baking, collecting, packaging and delivering cookies to area seniors. For many years, women from the Upper Pontiac communities have baked dozens of cookies each for the annual event, while some of the men helped with the packaging and deliveries; likely some sampling, too!

(PS)

**PHOTO:** Left to right: Sue Collin, Jeannette Gaudette, Mike Mainville, Donna Gagnon, Gail Sullivan, Bernadette Hendry and Reverend Tim Moyle.

## André Fortin outlines his priorities for 2023

### MARYAM AMINI

**MRC PONTIAC** — André Fortin, Pontiac's MNA, stated he's working on a number of projects this year to increase the quality of services for Pontiacers.

Fortin said one of the most important projects he will focus on is improving road infrastructure in the region. "Our road infrastruc-

ture needs a lot of work. There are numerous projects I am hoping to see take place this year and there are some projects for the MTQ (Ministère des Transports du Québec) to put in their future planning. There are currently some projects in Campbell's Bay, Otter Lake and the Municipality of Pontiac that need to happen in short order."

Another service he is working on is to provide driving tests at the Société de l'assurance automobile (SAAQ) office in Campbell's Bay, so residents don't have to go to the city, where they are not familiar with the roads, to do their test.

### Affordable housing a priority

Fortin added that housing is also one of the important priorities on his list. "We will continue working on affordable and temporary housing in Pontiac, so some service providers, like healthcare employees, can live here. Also, we will work on more seniors' housing. Recently the only project in the region was Residence Meilleur, in the Upper Pontiac. We need more affordable accommodation for seniors."

"We also need to improve the quality of houses in the region. We are trying to negotiate with the CAQ government to bring back the 'Green Renovation' (Reno-Vert) project, to help Pontiacers do upgrades to their homes, including better windows, heating and other improvement that will make their houses more energy-efficient with less direct cost to the homeowners."

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# DISPATCHES FROM THE 148

BY FRED RYAN PUBLISHER EMERITUS

## Are we over-thinking (government) over-reach?

Talking about top-ten hits of 2022? Complaining of, or rather, citing evidence for "government over-reach" has to be high up on that list, no matter how it's sung. It was even a significant topic on a few fishing trips last summer. It is relevant.

What's so new? For much of our lives we've done our best to deal with "government over-reach". Dealing with governments which fail (or refuse) to realize their own promises but which also struggle with the expectations of 35+ million citizens. In that lens, these "big governments" haven't done enough, rather than too much. Between public expectations/demands and public resources available, it's not a tight-rope, it's an invisible line, a thread to follow. I often wonder why anyone would want an MP's job.

Slowly, that old expectation of all citizens benefiting from a government's actions (which once gave us public health-care) has changed, as governments grew in size, complexity, and redundancy -- thanks to the size, complexity and needed redundancies in our massive country. How could government be smaller and still meet all Canadians' expectations? If you look at any government without looking at its operating environment, it will look enormous. The civil service, the bureaucracy, of a modern state is enormous -- and for these reasons, not because politicians are megalomaniacs.

And with size comes mistakes and waste, job-padding and even some outright corruption or self-serving expansion.

There are too many opportunities for this, too many leaks in this big old wooden punt. But does that mean all big-government is "bad"? Canada should be broken up ... what, into Banana Republics? Or Icicle Republics? But economies of scale are today a big bonus for big governments. Personally, I wish they'd use that tool more often, not less.

Nor should our response be to increase police presence. Too much or heavy-handed policing (like the policy of our language police) can actually disrupt good government and scare off good employees, specialists, and investors. Few people today see police and jails as positive solutions; police work is but one social tool, a desperate one, where we can't do better than use tear gas and jail cells. They're needed, yes, but the carrot is so much more productive than the stick.

In fact, it's the use of police force that is real "gov't over-reach" -- when the bureaucracy thinks it can use physical force to achieve its best intentions. A sledge-hammer rather than a screw-driver. Plus, the not-uncommon belief that government is just too big and whole chunks have to be amputated, this is another over-reach; us thinking that one simplistic 'solution' will actually serve any complex jumble of mandates, obligations and ordinary human beings' desires.

We have a lot of government in modern Canada -- not entirely because of bad actors or lazy thinking, but because Canadians must manage a lot of communal

wealth and investment. And because modern Canadians, for better or worse, have very clear ambitions and expectations out of life. With our winters we deserve a break or two.

But for us, the people, to insist on massive cuts to government services -- calling them over-reach -- merely cuts into our own self-interest, blocking the benefits of Canada's great resources. Any society needs management and planning, not slash-and-burn. Why lower our expectations because there are some abuses and short-falls in what we expect from government? Why not lower those abuses by better management? Why not, instead of cutting, we shift responsibilities downward, out of the government towers, and closer to those who actually benefit from, or suffer, the effects of government services?

We shouldn't say "government over-reach", when "bureaucratic over-reach" is more accurate, that slow internal pressure to expand. Non-transparency comes with bureaucratic over-reach, not government over-reach. Those who make significant decisions in private, no matter their motives, are being non-transparent, as a form of bureaucratic self-protection. All this is hardly rocket science, but so to is just complaining about government over-reach and "big government", in general. And please don't start with the latest idiocy, "weaponized government"!

Cutting big sections of government services is the opposite of government over-reach; it is citizens' under-reach. It is saying we expect and want less, not better. Rants about "big government" usually suggest turning over whole sectors of our national economy to the Law of the Jungle, to corporate enterprise. How is this beneficial?

We Canadians want better, not less!

We Canadians want wiser government, not absent government!

## Pontiac Council – evaluations to be reviewed?

Mo LAIDLAW

**MUNICIPALITY OF PONTIAC** – The monthly meeting of Pontiac municipal council was held on December 13, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. at the Luskville community centre. Only 8 members of the public attended. Councillor Laforest was absent. Mario Allen, the Acting director general (ADG) was present.

### Finances

The MRC evaluation service and the Québec government will be asked to review their calculations as assessments were made during a period when the pandemic caused a real estate boom and didn't reflect the true value of properties.

Council agreed to accept the National Capital Commission's proposal for payment of \$270,300 in lieu of taxes for 9 properties in Gatineau Park for 2020 to 2022. (In 2020 the NCC contested the increased evaluation of these properties.)

The five contracts previously awarded to Patrick Brazeau for a total of \$8,800, for winter maintenance of private roads were reviewed by council. It was decided that public works would snowplow chemins de la Pointe Indienne, Clavelle, des Trappeurs, de la Sarriette, des Pêcheurs and des Draveurs.

Adding 0.45 km to the snowplow contract for sector G, for chemins Destrier and de la Butte, results in an additional amount of \$2,304 on this contract.

Michael McCann was awarded the contract for maintaining the skating rink in Quyon for \$10,000, after proof of insurance.

\$3,000 was offered to the Table Autonome des Aînés des Collines for 2022 and \$100 to La Voix des Collines radio station.

### Planning

The bylaw 12-22 concerning the keeping of laying hens was adopted.

Council supported four requests to the CPTAQ for non-agricultural uses in the agricultural zone, two to build residences, one for a sandpit and one unspecified. Five subdivision permits were authorized, creating 26 new parcels. All of these projects are "in line with the land use planning of the municipality, which consists of promoting residential and commercial development throughout the territory."

A resident asked about the motion at the November 8 meeting that claimed that the "National Policy on Architecture and Land Use Planning (PNAAT) is not appropriate in rural areas like ours," when it is specifically aimed at areas near cities like Gatineau and Montréal, to reduce urban sprawl and vehicle use. Mayor Larose later clarified, "We have to develop only the town of Quyon." He agreed that "anthropogenic wetlands" (not in the PNAAT) means "man-made ponds." It is unclear where this phrase came from although the motion "came from the MRC."



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## HEATING



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- Maintenir et développer des relations harmonieuses avec les citoyens, les employés et tout autre groupe, association ou partenaire ;
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[www.wemovetheworld.com](http://www.wemovetheworld.com)

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## NOTICE



## AVIS PUBLIC D'ÉLECTION

### Municipalité de Fort-Coulonge Date du scrutin 2023-02-26

Par cet avis public, Naomie Rivet, présidente d'élection, annonce les éléments suivants aux électrices et aux électeurs de la municipalité.

1. Le poste suivant est ouvert aux candidatures :  
Poste de conseillère ou conseiller 1
2. Toute déclaration de candidature à l'un de ces postes doit être produite au bureau de la présidente ou du président d'élection (ou de l'adjointe ou adjoint désigné pour recevoir les déclarations de candidature, le cas échéant) aux jours et aux heures suivants :

Du 13 janvier au 27 janvier 2023

#### Horaire

Lundi	De 8 h 30 à 12 h 00	De 13 h 00 à 16 h 00
Mardi	De 8 h 30 à 12 h 00	De 13 h 00 à 16 h 00
Mercredi	De 8 h 30 à 12 h 00	De 13 h 00 à 16 h 00
Jeudi	De 8 h 30 à 12 h 00	De 13 h 00 à 16 h 00
Vendredi	De 8 h 30 à 12 h 00	De 13 h 00 à 16 h 00

Attention : le vendredi 27 janvier 2023, le bureau sera ouvert de 9 h à 16 h 30 de façon continue.

3. Si plus d'une personne pose sa candidature au même poste, vous pourrez exercer votre droit de vote en vous présentant au bureau de vote qui vous sera assigné, aux dates suivantes :

Jour du scrutin : **Dimanche 26 février 2023 entre 10 h et 20 h**

Jour de vote par anticipation : **Dimanche 19 février 2023 entre 12 h et 20 h**

4. La personne suivante a été nommée secrétaire d'élection :  
**Brigitte Lafrenière**

5. Les adjointes et adjoints suivants ont été désignés pour recevoir des déclarations de candidature (le cas échéant) : **Annik Plante**

6. Vous pouvez joindre la présidente d'élection (ou joindre son adjointe, le cas échéant) à l'adresse et au numéro de téléphone ci-dessous.

#### Présidente ou président d'élection

Adresse 134, rue Principale  
Téléphone : 819-683-2259 ext :223

#### Adjointe ou adjoint

Adresse :134, rue Principale  
Téléphone : 819-683-2259 ext : 225

Donné à Fort-Coulonge le 4 janvier 2023  
Naomie Rivet, Présidente d'élection



THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE PONTIAC JOURNAL IS  
**JANUARY 25TH, 2023**

**THE DEADLINE FOR**  
CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING IS JANUARY 19TH AT 4PM  
& DISPLAY ADVERTISING IS JANUARY 20TH AT 2PM

**NOTICE**Municipalité de  
Municipality of **CLARENDON**C427, rte. 148, Shawville, QC. JOX 2Y0  
Tél: (819) 647-3862 • Fax: (819) 647-3822**POINTS FORTS DU BUDGET 2023**

Après une autre année sans augmentation du taux d'imposition, le Conseil municipal a adopté un budget équilibré pour 2023 qui maintient à nouveau le même taux d'imposition.

Globalement, les recettes (y compris les montants provenant des taxes et des subventions) pour 2023 s'élèveront à 2,977,088.00\$, ce qui représente une augmentation des recettes de 0,041 % par rapport à 2022. Les dépenses s'élèvent à 3 041 816 \$ pour 2023, soit une augmentation de 10,2 % par rapport à 2022.

Un total de 575 146,00 \$ sera réinvesti pour couvrir les dépenses en capital prévues pour 2023, dont un camion chasse-neige avec ponceuse ainsi qu'un ajout au bureau municipal pour créer une salle d'archives appropriée.

La plupart des augmentations des dépenses pour 2023 sont pour les parts municipales payées à la MRC de Pontiac (augmentation pour 2023 de 37%), le transport et la sécurité publique.

Conformément aux communications habituelles, le document budgétaire 2023 sera joint aux factures d'impôts 2023.

**Maire Edward Walsh**  
Municipalité de Clarendon

**BUDGET 2023 HIGHLIGHTS**

After another year with no increase to the tax rate, the Municipal Council passed a balanced budget for 2023 that again maintains the same tax rate.

Overall, the revenues (including amounts from taxes and grants) for 2023 will be in the amount of \$ 2,977,088.00 which represents an increase in revenue of 0.041% over 2022. The expenditures in the amount of \$3,041,816 for 2023, is an increase over 2022 expenditures of 10.2%.

A total of \$ 575,146.00 will be reinvested to cover capital expenditures planned for 2023 including a Plow Truck with Sander as well as an addition to the Municipal Office to create a proper archive room.

Most of the increases in expenditures for 2023 are for Municipal shares paid to the MRC Pontiac (increase for 2023 of 37%), Transportation and Public Security.

As per normal communications, the 2023 budget document will be included with the 2023 tax invoices.

**Maire Edward Walsh**  
Municipalité de Clarendon



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**NOTICE**Municipalité de  
Municipality of **CLARENDON**C427, rte. 148, Shawville, QC. JOX 2Y0  
Tél: (819) 647-3862 • Fax: (819) 647-3822**AVIS PUBLIC**

Un avis public est par la présente donné aux payeurs de taux de la municipalité de Clarendon que le calendrier suivant des réunions du conseil pour 2023 a été approuvé par la résolution # 184-12-2022 lors de la réunion ordinaire du conseil le 13 décembre 2022. Les réunions auront lieu à 19 h 00 chaque soir.

Mardi, le 10 janvier – Mardi, le 24 janvier  
Mardi, le 7 février – Mardi le 21 février  
Mardi le 14 mars – Mardi le 28 mars  
Mardi, le 11 avril – Mardi le 25 avril  
Mardi le 9 mai – Mardi le 30 mai  
Mardi le 13 juin – Mardi le 27 juin  
Mardi le 11 juillet  
Mardi le 8 août  
Mardi le 12 septembre – Mardi le 26 septembre  
Mardi le 10 octobre – Mardi le 24 octobre  
Mardi le 14 novembre – Mardi le 28 novembre  
Mardi le 12 décembre

**La réunion publique pour l'annonce du budget et du plan triennal de dépenses d'investissement sera annoncée plus tard.**

Donné à Clarendon  
Ce 16 décembre 2022  
**Patricia Hobbs**  
Greffier trésorier, Municipalité de Clarendon

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Public Notice is hereby given to the ratepayers of the Municipality of Clarendon that the following schedule of Council Meetings for 2023 has been approved by resolution # 184-12-2022 in the regular meeting of council on December 13, 2022. The meetings will be held on each of the following nights starting at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, January 10 – Tuesday, January 24  
Tuesday, February 7 – February 21  
Tuesday, March 14 – Tuesday, March 28  
Tuesday, April 11 – Tuesday, April 25  
Tuesday, May 9 – Tuesday, May 30  
Tuesday, June 13 – Tuesday, June 27  
Tuesday, July 11  
Tuesday, August 8  
Tuesday, September 12 – Tuesday, September 26  
Tuesday, October 10 – Tuesday, October 24  
Tuesday, November 14 – Tuesday, November 28  
Tuesday, December 12

**Public Budget and Three Year Capital Expenditure Plan Meeting Date to be announced.**

Given at Clarendon  
This 16th day of December 2022  
**Patricia Hobbs**  
Clerk Treasurer, Municipality of Clarendon



**Plus de 10,000 lecteurs.  
Distribué dans tous les foyers du Pontiac.**

**OFFRE D'EMPLOI****OFFRE D'EMPLOI  
INSPECTEUR(TRICE) EN  
ÉVALUATION FONCIÈRE**

La Municipalité régionale de comté (MRC) de Pontiac est située au sud-ouest de la province de Québec en périphérie de la majestueuse rivière des Outaouais, laquelle forme une frontière naturelle avec l'Ontario. Elle est reconnue pour la richesse de ses ressources naturelles, son patrimoine bâti et sa diversité culturelle. Le Pontiac compte un peu plus de 14,000 habitants, dont environ 57% d'anglophones, répartis dans 18 municipalités et un territoire non-organisé de 9 000 km<sup>2</sup>.

**DESCRIPTION DU POSTE**

Sous la supervision du directeur général, la personne titulaire du poste doit effectuer les travaux nécessaires à la confection et la tenue à jour du rôle d'évaluation de la MRC. À cet effet, il procède à l'inspection des terrains et des bâtiments à vocation résidentielle et agricole.

**PRINCIPALES FONCTIONS**

- Recueillir les données nécessaires à l'évaluation des bâtiments résidentiels et agricoles tout en respectant les lois, les règlements, le manuel, les normes et procédures régissant le domaine de l'évaluation foncière;
- Effectuer la prise et le suivi des rendez-vous s'il y a lieu;
- Préparer des envois papier et faire l'entrée de données dans le logiciel informatique en place;
- Saisir l'information recueillie et dessiner les croquis dans le système informatique;
- Effectuer des inspections physiques;
- Collaborer avec son équipe de travail pour compléter le processus d'évaluation.

**EXIGENCES**

- Détenir un diplôme d'études collégiales (DEC) en Technologie de l'évaluation immobilière ou en estimation en bâtiment OU une attestation d'études collégiales (AEC) en évaluation immobilière ou estimation en bâtiment OU toute combinaison de formation ou d'expérience jugée pertinente et équivalente sera considérée.
- Détenir un permis de conduire valide et avoir accès à un véhicule;
- Faire preuve d'initiative et être intéressé à accroître ses connaissances dans le domaine de l'évaluation;
- Maîtriser les outils informatiques de base (Excel, Word, Outlook);
- La personne titulaire du poste est appelée à utiliser son véhicule et par conséquent doit le maintenir en bonne condition dans l'exercice de ses fonctions;
- La connaissance du territoire de la MRC de Pontiac est un atout.

**PROFIL RECHERCHÉ**

- Être structuré et démontrer un excellent sens de l'organisation;
- Être autonome et à l'aise avec le travail seul;
- Faire preuve de rigueur et de minutie;
- Habilé à communiquer verbalement en français et en anglais;
- Souci du service à la clientèle;

**NOS AVANTAGES ET CONDITIONS DE TRAVAIL**

- Poste syndiqué permanent et à temps plein (35 heures par semaine);
- 4 jours par semaine en saison estivale et 5 jours par semaine en saison hivernale;
- Salaire de 23.37\$/h à 28.74\$/h selon l'expérience du candidat;
- Remboursement des frais de déplacement (km);
- 15 jours fériés annuels, 12 jours de maladies par année;
- Vacances annuelles, RÉERS et assurances collectives;
- La conciliation travail-vie personnelle.
- La possibilité de faire progresser votre carrière

**NOS AVANTAGES ET CONDITIONS DE TRAVAIL**

Pour postuler, svp envoyer votre CV à l'attention de  
**Mme Kim Lesage à rh@mrcpontiac.qc.ca avant le 27 janvier 2023.**

Pour toute question svp communiquer avec le service des ressources humaines au  
**819-648-5689 poste 213**

Remerciant tous les postulants, seules les candidatures refusées seront convoquées pour une entrevue.

\*Dans le présent document, le masculin est utilisé dans le seul but d'alléger le texte.

**DÉCOUVREZ LA MRC DE PONTIAC ET VENEZ VOUS JOINDRE  
À UNE ÉQUIPE DYNAMIQUE AU SERVICE DE LA POPULATION**  
<https://www.mrcpontiac.qc.ca/> OU <https://www.facebook.com/mrcpontiac/>  
OU <https://destinationpontiac.ca/>



**PLEASE RECYCLE THIS  
PAPER AFTER READING.**

# AVIS PUBLIC

# PUBLIC NOTICE

## Centre de services scolaire des Hauts-Bois-de-l'Outaouais

### INSCRIPTION DES ÉLÈVES POUR L'ANNÉE SCOLAIRE 2023-2024 – SECTEUR PONTIAC

AVIS PUBLIC, est, par la présente, donné par le soussigné, secrétaire général, que l'inscription pour les élèves de maternelle 4 ans, maternelle 5 ans et 1re année se tiendra du 6 au 17 février 2023.

#### CONDITION D'ADMISSION :

- Maternelle 4 ans, avoir 4 ans avant le 1<sup>er</sup> octobre 2023
- Maternelle 5 ans, avoir 5 ans avant le 1<sup>er</sup> octobre 2023
- Première(1re) année, avoir 6 ans avant le 1<sup>er</sup> octobre 2023

#### POUR PRENDRE RENDEZ-VOUS POUR L'INSCRIPTION DE VOTRE ENFANT :

Composez le **819 683-2091** et sélectionnez le numéro de poste correspondant au point de service associé à votre adresse.

#### Notre-Dame-du-Sacré-Coeur à l'Isle-aux-Allumettes :

Mme Rachelle Demers au poste 12422

L'Envolée à Campbell's Bay : Mme Monica Soucie au poste 12521

Saint-Pierre et Poupore à Fort-Coulonge : Mme Hélène Danis au poste 12321

Sainte-Marie à Otter-Lake : Mme Claire Sauriol 12121

Sainte-Anne à l'Île-du-Grand-Calumet : Mme Claire Sauriol au poste 12121

#### DOCUMENTS OBLIGATOIRES À FOURNIR À L'INSCRIPTION :

Certificat de naissance (original)	Preuve de résidence au Québec du parent ou du tuteur légal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Les enfants nés au Québec : certificat grand format émis par le Directeur de l'état civil;</li> <li>• Enfants nés en Ontario : certificat VERSION INTÉGRALE;</li> <li>• Enfants nés ailleurs qu'au Québec et qu'en Ontario : document valide avec les noms des parents et le lieu de naissance de l'enfant.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Deux des pièces suivantes :</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bail ou acte d'achat de résidence;</li> <li>• Compte de taxes municipales ou scolaires;</li> <li>• ET</li> <li>• Facture de service (Hydro-Québec, téléphone, internet, câble, etc.);</li> <li>• Permis de conduire valide au Québec;</li> <li>• Relevé de compte bancaire/carte de crédit;</li> <li>• Preuve d'abonnement à une revue ou un journal.</li> </ul>

#### PRIMAIRE ET SECONDAIRE

Pour les élèves déjà inscrits dans les écoles primaires et secondaires, la réinscription se fera en ligne via le **portail Mozaik**. Du support sera fourni aux parents qui en auront besoin.

#### NOUVEAUX ÉLÈVES

Pour les nouveaux élèves qui désirent s'inscrire au primaire, le parent ou le tuteur légal doit communiquer avec les responsables des inscriptions du préscolaire de chacun des points de services (voir plus haut).

Pour les nouveaux élèves qui désirent s'inscrire au secondaire, les parents doivent contacter le secrétariat de l'école secondaire Sieur-de-Coulonge au 819 683-3232 au poste 11236.

Donné à Maniwaki

Ce 6<sup>e</sup> jour de janvier 2023

Louis-Philippe Larivière  
Secrétaire général



## Centre de services scolaire des Hauts-Bois-de-l'Outaouais

### STUDENT REGISTRATION FOR SEPTEMBER 2023 – PONTIAC SECTOR

PUBLIC NOTICE, is hereby given by the undersigned, Secretary-general, that student registration for Prekindergarten 4, kindergarten 5 and grade 1, will be held from February 6th to the 17th, 2023.

#### CONDITION FOR ADMISSION :

- Prekindergarten : Be 4 years old before October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023
- Kindergarten : Be 5 years old before October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023
- Grade 1: Be 6 years old before October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023

#### TO TAKE AN APPOINTMENT FOR YOUR CHILD'S REGISTRATION :

Dial **819 683-2091** and select the proper extension from the list below.

#### Notre-Dame-du-Sacré-Coeur (Allumette Island and Chapeau):

Mrs. Rachelle Demers at extension 12422

L'Envolée in Campbell's Bay: Mrs. Monica Soucie at extension 12521

Saint-Pierre and Poupore in Fort-Coulonge: Mrs. Hélène Danis at extension 12321

Sainte-Marie in Otter Lake: Mrs. Claire Sauriol at extension 12121

Sainte-Anne on Grand-Calumet Island: Mrs. Claire Sauriol at extension 12121

#### MANDATORY DOCUMENTS YOU MUST PROVIDE AT REGISTRATION :

Birth certificate (original)	Proof of residence in Quebec of parent or legal guardian
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children born in Quebec: large format certificate issued by the registrar of civil status;</li> <li>• Children born in Ontario: FULL VERSION certificate;</li> <li>• Children born outside of Quebec and Ontario: valid document with the names of the parents and the place of birth of the child.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Two of the following documents :</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lease or deed of purchase of residence;</li> <li>• Municipal or school tax invoice;</li> <li>• AND</li> <li>• Utilities invoice (Hydro-Québec, telephone, internet, cable, etc.);</li> <li>• Valid driver's license in Quebec;</li> <li>• Bank account / credit card statement;</li> <li>• Proof of subscription to a magazine or newspaper.</li> </ul>

#### ELEMENTARY AND HIGH SCHOOL

For students already enrolled in elementary and highschool, renewal of registration for the upcoming school year must be done online via the **Mozaik parent portal**. Assistance will be available for those who need it.

#### NEW STUDENTS

For new students who wish to enroll in elementary school, the parent or legal guardian must contact their school's representative from the list above.

For new students who wish to enroll in high school, the parent or legal guardian must get in touch with the school secretary of l'École secondaire Sieur-de-Coulonge of Mansfield-et-Pontefract at 819 683-3232 extension 11236.

Given in Maniwaki

This 6<sup>th</sup> day of January 2023

Louis-Philippe Larivière  
Secretary-general

