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Journal
DU PONTIAC

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Joyeux Noël / Merry Christmas



DANSER AUTOUR DU SAPIN DE NOËL – Le Marché de Noël de Bristol le 2 décembre à la salle Jack Graham a fourni une merveilleuse occasion d'acheter de l'artisanat fait à la main, des friandises savoureuses, un bon repas et plus. Pauline Gauthier et ses élèves de violon ont fourni un intermède musical, mais pour Elly Cray (en photo), ce qui était le meilleur, c'était de danser avec le Père Noël.

ROCKIN' AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE - Bristol Christmas Market, December 2, at the Jack Graham Hall, provided a wonderful opportunity to purchase handmade crafts, tasty treats, a great lunch and more. Pauline Gauthier and her fiddle students provided a musical interlude, but for Elly Cray (pictured), rocking with Santa was the best!
– Deborah Powell

À L'INTÉRIEUR INSIDE

Un Noël dans le Haut Pontiac !
An Upper Pontiac Christmas!
Voir/See pgs. 11, 16 – 18
Adoption du projet de la loi 15
Bill 15 passes
Voir/See pgs. 2 & 8
Pétition sur les déchets nucléaires
Nuclear waste petition
Voir/See pgs. 4, 10, 23
Mise à jour du CISSSO
CISSSO Update
Voir/See pgs. 7 & 12

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Bill 15

Quebec passes major healthcare reform after invoking parliamentary closure

GREG NEWING
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

QUEBEC – The government of Quebec officially adopted Bill 15 after invoking closure to end parliamentary debate about it, December 9. The bill is one of the largest healthcare reforms in the province's history and will centralize all healthcare administration under a single entity called Santé-Québec.

Health Minister Christian Dubé described the bill as a

step towards a "more accessible and efficient healthcare network". "After more than eight months of work on Bill 15 in the National Assembly, we're proud of its adoption ... It's essential to underline all the efforts made to reach this stage, as well as all the work accomplished by the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux, and the collaboration of all network partners and opposition groups," said Minister Dubé.

According to official opposition health critic and Pontiac MNA André Fortin, only 700 of the bill's 1200 articles were studied before the government invoked closure to fast track it. He said at least 100 significant articles concerning paramedic services remained to be studied. "It's unfortunate we didn't get to study it and improve it," said Fortin. "We're in a situation where we aren't studying clauses that may have significant repercussions on our healthcare system. Everyone was collaborating, nobody was taking too much time, nobody was filibustering the bill. The minister himself remarked that all of the committee members were being productive," said Fortin.

Under the new law, all administrative decision making will be centralized in Santé-Québec, which will also become the sole employer for healthcare workers across the province. The CISSO, the current health unit for the Outaouais region, will be replaced by a regional branch of Santé-Québec that will oversee healthcare



FESTIVAL DES LUMIÈRES AU PARC DES CHUTES COULONGE

Toutes les fins de semaine de décembre, les Chutes Coulonge ont organisé leur Festival des Lumières aux Chutes. D'après la directrice, Grace Rebis, cette année ils ont vu une belle augmentation de visiteurs. Vendredi soir le 15 décembre, trois cents personnes se sont présentées pour rencontrer le Père Noël et samedi le 16, trois cent cinquante personnes étaient présentes pour la soirée Guirlandes et guitares pour écouter la prestation musicale du groupe d'élèves du parascolaire de Gaetan Forgues, avec l'invitée spéciale Mme Michaela Cahill. La dernière nuit pour profiter de la Festival des Lumières est le 29 décembre. Elle remercie les visiteurs, les bénévoles, les musiciens (ennes) pour leur soutien encore cette année.

-Gaetan Forgues

PHOTO : Les élèves du parascolaire de Gaëtan avec l'invitée spéciale Michaela Cahill. À l'avant, Micheala Cahill. À l'arrière de gauche à droite Chris Doyle, Gaetan Forgues, Molly Romain, Meggie Boisvert, Noemie Boisvert et Clara Patry à la soirée Guirlandes et guitares du Parc des Chutes Coulonge.

operations in the Outaouais, but will no longer have any decision-making power. While the law officially came into effect December 13, Santé-Québec will take approximately 6 months to put in place, during which time CISSO will continue to operate. According to CISSO interim president Yves St-Onge, a transitional committee led by Deputy Health and Social Services Minister Daniel Paré will oversee the

transition from the CISSS network to Santé-Québec.

Minister Dubé promised transparency during the transitional period and reassured healthcare workers: "The changes to come, particularly the creation of Santé-Québec, are major. We will make this transition gradually and transparently, while respecting the staff of the health network."

Fortin said he's concerned removing local decision-making powers may demobilize healthcare workers across the province. "The bill leaves very little space for local adaptation and innovation. If all decisions come down from Quebec City, there's really no room for workers to get involved and better their workplaces...there are no longer any avenues for local doctors and nurses to contest decisions," he said. He added that centralizing

all decision-making in Santé-Québec may also lead to further "urbanization" of healthcare with even less services offered in rural areas and institutions like the Pontiac Hospital.

In the weeks before the bill's adoption, debate focused on the right to access healthcare in English after minister Dubé introduced an amendment granting Santé-Québec powers to revoke bilingual status from hospitals without any recourse to contestation in areas where the English-speaking population is deemed under 50%. The amendment was later retracted following criticism from opposition parties and subsequently reintroduced with a clause stating Santé-Québec can revoke bilingual status only if the decision is approved by English-speaking access committees.

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Nous vous souhaitons un joyeux Noël et une nouvelle année pleine de bonheur, de santé et de prospérité !
Que l'avenir soit agréable, que le passé soit un rêve lumineux et que toutes les personnes qui font partie de votre vie restent fidèles et chères !

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year!
May the future be pleasant, the past a bright dream, and all the people in your life remain faithful and dear!

PONTIAC Journal DU PONTIAC
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SANTA VISITS ALLEYN-ET-CAWOOD

Community spirit was alive and well in Danford Lake (Alleyn-et-Cawood) on Saturday, December 9, celebrating the Third Annual Santa Claus Parade. The entire village came out to support the parade and gathered at Bethany Hall for refreshments and a visit with Santa afterwards.

Santa, Mrs. Claus, and Elf Judy were there to hand out gifts to all the children who registered. Mayor Carl Mayer and Council thanked all the volunteers, float entries, and residents for supporting the annual visit from Santa.

Float winners were: First place - TEGA Excavation Inc, second place - D. Peck Wood Services, and third place - the Mathews Family. Happy Holidays from Alleyn-et-Cawood.

PHOTO : Jackson Normand might be on the naughty list!



Consultation publique sur la foresterie

SOPHIE DEMERS

MRC DE PONTIAC – Le public est invité à participer à une consultation sur de nouvelles zones potentielles de travaux forestiers et sylvicoles commerciaux ou non commerciaux au cours des 5 prochaines années, conformément aux Plans opérationnels d'aménagement forestier intégré (PAFIO) du ministère des Ressources naturelles et des Forêts (MRNF). Les activités potentielles comprennent la préparation de l'emplacement, le reboisement, la récolte, la récupération du bois touché par la tordeuse des bourgeons de l'épinette, l'éclaircissage et le nettoyage précommandés, ainsi que la construction et la remise en état de routes.

La consultation est le fruit d'un mandat donné à la MRC de Pontiac par le MRNF. La consultation publique est ouverte aux commentaires jusqu'au 23 décembre, ce qui donne aux résidents l'occasion d'exprimer leurs préoccupations et les détails qu'ils estiment que le gouvernement du Québec devrait connaître avant d'effectuer des travaux sur les sites.

Six unités de l'Outaouais sont considérées comme de nouveaux domaines d'intervention potentiels : les unités de gestion de Coulonge UA 071-51 et 071-52 ; à Basse-Lièvre UA 072-51 ; et en Haute-Gatineau-et-



PHOTO D'ARCHIVES

du-Cabonga UA 073-51, 073-52 et 074-51. Ces zones pourraient être ciblées, mais ce n'est pas garanti. Les travaux pourraient commencer dès 2024.

Le travail se divise en différentes catégories :

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- Plan spécial de gestion contre la tordeuse des bourgeons de l'épinette : récolte du bois peu susceptible de résister à l'épidémie avant que l'arbre ne devienne impropre à la transformation.

Pour participer, le public peut visiter le site Web du gouvernement du Québec : <https://www.quebec.ca/agriculture-environnement-et-ressources-naturelles/forets/planification-forestiere/plans-regionaux-consultations/outaouais/pafio-nov2023>

NOTAIRE | NOTARY
ME LISA GALLINARO



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ASSEMBLÉE NATIONALE DU QUÉBEC

ÉDITORIAL

Mea-culpa



Francois
CARRIER

ÉDITORIALISTE
EDITORIALIST

Depuis mon arrivée dans le Pontiac, j'ai été appelé à couvrir les sujets de l'industrie forestière. Issue d'une famille de bûcherons, la majorité de ma famille a pratiqué un métier lié à la forêt. Je possède une certaine connaissance du sujet, mais aussi une vision qui est liée à l'exploitation de cette ressource à grande échelle. Récemment, j'ai été invité par le Groupement Forestier du Pontiac (GFP) à assister à une rencontre des ingénieurs de l'Outaouais. Cette rencontre avec des experts de la forêt a changé ma perspective et m'a fait prendre conscience de certains éléments.

La couverture journalistique de l'industrie forestière dans le Pontiac porte souvent sur la relance des opérations au sein des « moulins ». La fermeture de la Smurfit-Stone marque encore l'imaginaire. Malgré la relance de la Commonwealth Plywood à Rapides, la communauté de Fort-Coulonge/Mansfield espère voir une entreprise similaire venir s'établir tout près du « village ». Le démantèlement du site de Jovalco, dont la relance promise par la préfète Jane Toller se fait attendre, et la décision de la famille St-Cyr d'annoncer leur intention de mettre fin à leur plan de relance à Davidson n'aident en rien le moral de la population. Notons aussi la tendance de plusieurs politiciens dans le Pontiac à idolâtrer le modèle ontarien.

Cependant, il faut parfois se tourner vers l'est, dans des contextes juridiques similaires au Pontiac pour trouver des solutions. L'exemple qu'on m'a cité, touche la région du Bas St-Laurent. Là-bas, près de 80% de la forêt privée est dotée d'un plan d'aménagement. L'industrie s'y porte bien et fait figure de leader. Dans le Pontiac, ce chiffre se situe à environ 5 %. Cette rencontre avec des ingénieurs m'a fait prendre conscience que je n'ai pas toujours abordé tous les aspects de ce domaine. J'ai donc eu tendance à traiter davantage des grands projets, comme les garantis d'approvisionnement en forêt publique pour certaines entreprises et non pas de ce qu'on peut appeler la base. Je m'en excuse. Cependant, le potentiel collectif est grand pour le Pontiac.

Il faut des améliorations pour arriver à une recette gagnante. D'abord, le comité sur la forêt à la MRC de Pontiac ne s'est rencontré qu'une seule fois en près de deux ans. Cette situation doit changer. Les élus et les membres de ce Comité doivent se rencontrer régulièrement, c'est essentiel. Certains incitatifs autant sur le plan fiscal que pour encourager la relève doivent être analysés par nos municipalités et c'est par ce Comité que l'information transige. Nous devons aussi encourager les propriétaires privées à travailler avec le GFP pour se doter de plan d'aménagement, pour favoriser les projets collectifs. Finalement, écoutons les spécialistes de la forêt comme Martin Boucher du GFP. Ces ingénieurs connaissent leur domaine et espèrent du développement. Souhaitons voir des pratiques être mis en place dès janvier 2024.

Here's a huge gift - will you accept it?



Fred
RYAN

ÉDITORIALISTE
EDITORIALIST

No matter if you celebrate Christmas or not, this is a season of gifts - perhaps it's the changing of the season, the coming of snow, or even the need to squeeze out some gift from the universe as our days fall into shorter sunlit hours. Sure, summer's wonderful... but right now we need some cheeriness. The ancient Celts and Nordic peoples recognized the value in celebrating this time too.

And we're being offered a huge gift; we can't let this slide by!

Pontiac, in the heart of the Ottawa River watershed, has long questioned the construction of a disaster-in-waiting, the huge radioactive dump at Chalk River, on a site upwind and one eventually draining into the Ottawa River. The Liberal federal government has refused to seriously consider the threats posed by such a dangerous project. Both our former and present MPs (Ms. Sophie Chatel) have told me personally that "the NSDF is going ahead no matter what; all we (citizens) can do is make sure it's as safe as possible." An impossible task, with train and truckloads of radioactive waste arriving daily.

In other words, citizens be damned, we have obligations to fulfill - such as this giga-pile at Chalk River.

Back to gift-giving: Ms. Chatel has announced she is endorsing a citizens' petition (initiated by Ole Hendrickson) to her government asking a serious review of the "near-surface" facility. The petition asks that nearby Indigenous peoples' wishes be taken seriously. And why not add you and I and our families? We live here, square within the big dump's wind shadow.

Working with what we have, this petition needs the support of every one of us living within the facility's long reach. Your finest gift to your fellow-citizens, and especially to our future generations, is your signature on this petition.

Just type this address into your web browser: <https://www.ourcommons.ca/petitions/en/Petition/Details?Petition=e-4676> and follow the instructions to register your signature. You will be asking for a review of this massive project - a review. Pretty timid, but it's the best we have to work with, and ignoring this opportunity, skimpy as it is, would be a big mistake.

So, *Journal* readers, here's our opportunity to have the federal government explain why it is insisting on approving such a dangerous and hugely expensive project. The Conservatives literally gifted this project to the corporate sector, with enough public money to make everyone connected to the project wealthy.

Time to stand up for ourselves, Pontiac!

Read more about the petition on pgs. 10 & 23.

NOUVELLES DE L'ÉCOLE – SCHOOL NEWS



Dr. Wilbert Keon School float in the L'Isle-aux-Allumettes Christmas Parade, December 3.



St. John's Elementary School float in the Campbell's Bay/Litchfield Santa Claus Parade, December 2.

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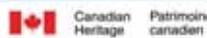
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Carl Hager, Cheryl Dolan, Deborah Powell, Gaëtan Fougues, Greg Newing, Jamie Cameron, Sophie Demers, Tashi Farnilo: Journalists

NOTE DE L'ÉDITEUR / PUBLISHER'S NOTE



A word from the publisher

As 2023 draws to a close, readers may be interested in an update about the state of publishing small newspapers. The *Pontiac Journal*, like about 35 other small local newspapers across Quebec, is still printing. The fact that you, dear reader, are holding a print newspaper in your hands is something to celebrate!

Outaouais is a unique region in Quebec for newspapers. There are six minority-language newspapers here, more than anywhere else across Canada -- and this, in such a sparsely populated region. This is a testament to involved readers, advertisers and dedicated staff.

Key to the paper's success are the people who make it happen. Readers will notice that Peter Smith, Dana Bertrand and Bonnie Zimmerling are holding the fort strong with Lynne Lavery at the helm, following some recent changes in others with key responsibilities. Jess Cloutier, the Production Manager and Graphic Designer, moved on after 13 years with the *Journal* team, and Lisa Neuman, with 19 years of newspaper experience, took over the job in June this year. Bonnie James has been filling the Editor's chair since October. The newsroom, to cover the grand expanse that is Pontiac, includes many community journalists, proof-readers, translators and trusted advisors, including Lionel Tessier and François Carrier.

Federal and provincial aid for minority-language newspapers

Newspapers are at the heart of minority-language communities, and Pontiac has benefited from the Federal governments' Action Plan, recently updated. This helps cover some of the costs of delivering and printing newspapers ("Aid to Publishers"), as well as paying some reporters (the "Local Journalism Initiative" and the "Journalism Internship Program"). There are also refundable tax credits at both levels of government and Quebec has recently opened up programs for more than just online publishing as they realize the population isn't rushing towards digital living only.

This financial help from governments is important to mention for a number of reasons. First, it helps explain to readers how this newspaper is even possible. Yes, it is my fundamental belief that every household should have access to credible information, free if possible, to reduce inequity between "have" and "have-not" families. But seeing the long list of people who work to produce the newspaper and

knowing the high cost of printing and delivery, it isn't hard to understand that a handful of ads can't cover all the costs.

Clearly, this newspaper is a critical part of marketing for local businesses. And government funders understand that in helping newspapers, they also help local economies and isolated communities by keeping advertising costs affordable.

Meta (Facebook and Instagram's parent company) has blocked genuine news on their platforms, but the Federal government has recently reached a deal with Google, so Canadian news will still be found in Google searches. *The Journal*, with its total and free distribution, brings the news that's important for citizens to know about on a local and regional level---right into your mailbox!

Why go over these details at the end of 2023?

Readers should know that the managers and staff of the *Pontiac Journal* are working hard to keep this newspaper healthy and rolling, assisted by our MP, MNA, and municipal representatives.

With bad news everywhere concerning the future of democracy, journalism is itself threatened. But in the Pontiac, we are holding steady. And, all of us are part of this process. So, please shop with our advertisers, write letters to the editor, continue sending in news tips, and, especially, talk about what you read at every level of government -- this is the role our readers play in this big puzzle that is local newspaper publishing.

Lily Ryan,
Publisher

NOTE: Ms Ryan was born in Pembroke, schooled in the Pontiac, earning a BA from McGill University, plus additional instruction while travelling abroad (France, Mexico, China). She has been involved with *The Journal* since its inception in 1987 and was editor from 2002 to 2005. She took over ownership of the paper in 2014. She is multilingual (4 languages) and is the former president of the Quebec Community Newspaper Association.



Lily Ryan - Publisher of the Pontiac Journal, Aylmer Bulletin, Gatineau Bulletin, and West Quebec Post.
(File photo)

Un mot de l'éditeur

Alors que 2023 tire à sa fin, les lecteurs pourraient être intéressés par une mise à jour sur l'état de la publication de petits journaux. *Le Journal du Pontiac*, comme environ 35 autres petits journaux locaux à travers le Québec, est encore en cours d'impression. Le fait que vous, cher lecteur, tenez un journal imprimé dans vos mains est quelque chose à célébrer !

L'Outaouais est une région unique au Québec pour les journaux. Il y a six journaux de langue minoritaire ici, plus que partout ailleurs au Canada -- et ce, dans une région si peu peuplée. Cela témoigne de l'implication des lecteurs, des annonceurs et du personnel dévoué.

La clé du succès du *Journal*, ce sont les personnes qui y parviennent. Les lecteurs remarqueront que Peter Smith, Dana Bertrand et Bonnie Zimmerling tiennent le fort avec Lynne Lavery à la barre, à la suite de certains changements récents chez ceux qui ont des responsabilités clés. Jess Cloutier, directeur de la production et graphiste, a déménagé après 13 ans au sein de l'équipe du *Journal*, et Lisa Neuman, avec 19 ans d'expérience dans la presse, a pris la relève en juin de cette année. Bonnie James occupe le fauteuil de rédacteur en chef depuis octobre. La salle de presse, pour couvrir la grande étendue qu'est le Pontiac, comprend de nombreux journalistes communautaires, des correcteurs d'épreuves, des traducteurs et des conseillers de confiance, dont Lionel Tessier et François Carrier.

Aide fédérale et provinciale aux journaux de langue minoritaire

Les journaux sont au cœur des communautés de langue officielle en situation minoritaire et le Pontiac a bénéficié du Plan d'action du gouvernement fédéral, récemment mis à jour. Cela permet de couvrir une partie des coûts de livraison et d'impression des journaux (« Aide aux éditeurs »), ainsi que de payer certains journalistes (« L'Initiative de journalisme local » et le « Programme de stages en journalisme »). Il existe également des crédits d'impôt remboursables aux deux ordres de gouvernement et le Québec a récemment ouvert des programmes pour plus que la simple publication en ligne, car ils se rendent compte que la population ne se précipite pas vers la vie numérique uniquement.

Il est important de mentionner cette aide financière des gouvernements pour un certain nombre de raisons. Tout d'abord, il aide à expliquer aux lecteurs comment

ce journal est même possible. Oui, je crois fondamentalement que chaque ménage devrait avoir accès à des informations crédibles, gratuites si possible, pour réduire l'iniquité entre les familles « nantie » et non. Mais en voyant la longue liste de personnes qui travaillent pour produire le *Journal* et en connaissant le coût élevé de l'impression et de la livraison, il n'est pas difficile de comprendre qu'une poignée d'annonces ne peuvent pas couvrir tous les coûts.

De toute évidence, ce journal est un élément essentiel du marketing pour les entreprises locales. Et les bailleurs de fonds gouvernementaux comprennent qu'en aidant les journaux, ils aident également les économies locales et les communautés isolées en gardant les coûts de publicité abordables.

Meta (facebook et la société mère d'Instagram) a bloqué les nouvelles authentiques sur leurs plateformes, mais le gouvernement fédéral a récemment conclu une entente avec Google, de sorte que les nouvelles canadiennes seront toujours trouvées dans les recherches Google. *Le Journal*, avec sa distribution totale et gratuite, apporte les nouvelles qu'il est important pour les citoyens de connaître à l'échelle locale et régionale --- droit dans votre boîte aux lettres !

Pourquoi passer en revue ces détails à la fin de 2023 ?

Les lecteurs doivent savoir que les gestionnaires et le personnel du *Journal du Pontiac* travaillent fort pour garder ce journal sain et roulant, avec l'aide de notre député et des représentants municipaux.

Avec de mauvaises nouvelles partout concernant l'avenir de la démocratie, le journalisme est lui-même menacé. Mais dans le Pontiac, nous nous maintenons. Et nous faisons tous partie de ce processus. Alors, s'il vous plaît magasinez avec nos annonceurs, écrivez des lettres à l'éditeur, continuez à envoyer des suggestions de nouvelles, et, surtout, parlez de ce que vous lisez à tous les niveaux de gouvernement -- c'est le rôle que nos lecteurs jouent dans ce grand casse-tête qu'est l'édition de journaux locaux.

Lily Ryan,
Éditeur

REMARQUE : Mme Ryan est née à Pembroke, a fait ses études dans le Pontiac, a obtenu un baccalauréat de l'Université McGill, ainsi qu'un enseignement supplémentaire lors d'un voyage à l'étranger (France, Mexique, Chine). Elle a été impliquée avec le *Journal* depuis sa création en 1987 et a été rédactrice en chef de 2002 à 2005. Elle a pris possession du journal en 2014. Elle est multilingue (4 langues) et est l'ancienne présidente de l'Association des journaux communautaires du Québec.

Plus d'actualités sur www.journalpontiac.com
Read more news at www.pontiacjournal.com

Affaire réglée entre Fort-Coulonge et Romain-Petit-Moteur

FRANÇOIS CARRIER

FORT-COULONGE - Les factures impayées qui avaient été remises dans un délai que la Municipalité de Fort-Coulonge avait jugé trop longue, ont été l'objet d'un arrangement entre le Conseil municipal et Romain-Petit-Moteur. «On est arrivé avec une entente, c'est fait, c'est payé, c'est réglé. Je ne sais pas comment vous dire, c'est un poids d'enlever de nos épaules. Sérieusement, c'est ça que c'est », a réagi avec un long soupir de soulagement, la mairesse Christine Francoeur.

Cette affaire, qui datait même du précédent conseil dirigé à l'époque par l'ancien maire Gaston Allard, a fait réagir plusieurs citoyens et mobiliser des contribuables qui ont exprimé à plusieurs reprises leurs mécontentements dans les derniers mois. L'opinion publique était d'ailleurs assez figée et la grande majorité du public supportait Romain-Petit-Moteur, entreprise bien établie dans sa communauté,

reconnue pour son expertise dans son domaine. Le Conseil municipal argumentait d'abord que les factures n'avaient pas été remises dans un délai prescrit et que ses dépenses appartenaient à des années financières antérieures. Sachant que les services et l'achat d'équipement avait bel et bien été réalisés par Romain-Petit-Moteur, les conseillers étaient donc divisés.

Le vote qui s'est déroulé le 7 décembre dernier, permettra de régler cette affaire qui donne espoir à la maire Christine Francoeur, qui a reconnu que ses conseillers et elle-même, ont eu une année difficile. « Vous savez, il n'y a pas de décision à la légère et je suis contente pour Romain-Petit-Moteur et pour nos conseillers, qu'on ait finalement une entente. On fait notre possible comme Conseil. Les citoyens ont le droit à leurs opinions, mais pas de manquer de respect aux élus comme j'ai vu à quelques reprises et j'espère qu'on pourra parler de développement pour notre village dans les prochaines semaines », a conclu Christine Francoeur.

CORRECTIONS - Approbation du budget de 2024

Il y avait deux erreurs dans la version française de l'article intitulé Réunion de la MRC : budget 2024 approuvé, paru dans l'édition du 29 novembre :

Concernant les projets approuvés pour le volet 2 du FRR

- Le nom du projet Honorons Nos Racines a été incorrectement écrit en anglais dans la version française de l'article.
- Les fonds reçus serviront à la construction d'un gazebo, et non d'un belvédère.

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Autre départ à la direction du développement économique de la MRC de Pontiac

FRANÇOIS CARRIER

MRC DE PONTIAC - Les années se succèdent et se ressemblent pour le département économique de la MRC de Pontiac, qui devra, une fois de plus, trouver une nouvelle direction au début de la nouvelle année. Après avoir embauché Guillaume Boudreau en novembre de l'an dernier, celui-ci quitte ses fonctions.

L'offre d'emploi a déjà été affichée sur le site web de la MRC de Pontiac. Au moment d'aller sous presse, la MRC de Pontiac n'avait pas encore retourné les appels du *Journal*, mais selon les informations obtenues, Guillaume Boudreau avait d'autres projets pour la poursuite de sa carrière.

Guillaume Boudreau avait succédé à Cyndy Phillips, embauchée en février 2020, qui avait pris la place de Danielle Newman, qui avait quitté la MRC de Pontiac en janvier 2020. Émilie Chazelas, qui occupait le poste avant Mme Newman,

avait démissionné du poste en mai 2018. Celle-ci avait remplacé Marc Fortin qui avait quitté son poste en novembre 2016.

Parmi les différentes tâches, le directeur devra créer et maintenir des relations d'affaires avec les ministères, les organismes et les institutions ainsi qu'avec les partenaires locaux et régionaux tout en assurant un lien étroit avec l'ensemble des municipalités de la MRC de Pontiac. La personne devra aussi superviser des recherches et des études afin d'évaluer le potentiel de certains projets de développement économique de la région, comme « la Valorisation des déchets », qui prévoit la mise en place d'un incinérateur pour créer de l'électricité avec les déchets.

Les candidats devront remettre leur candidature avant le 31 janvier 2024 à 16h00 pm. Il s'agit d'un poste cadre à temps plein, 37.5 h par semaine, le salaire annuel se situe entre 86 374 \$ et 113 662 \$ selon l'expérience du candidat.

CORRECTION - 2024 budget approved

Under the FRR Stream 2 subheading of the MRC meeting: 2024 budget approved article (English version) which appeared in the November 29 edition, Groupe L'Île-du-Grand-Calumet's project was incorrectly called Honouring Our Roots. The correct title of the project is Honour Our Roots.

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Joyeuses Fêtes et Bonne Année
à tous nos membres, de la direction et du personnel.

Season's Greetings
to all our members from the Board & Staff.

Mise à jour du CISSSO

Nouvel hôpital et transition vers Santé-Québec Outaouais

GREG NEWING

OUTAOUAIS – Environ 40 personnes ont assisté à une séance d'information publique en ligne organisée par le Centre intégré de santé et services sociaux de l'Outaouais (CISSSO), le 14 décembre. La réunion a été animée par le président par intérim et secrétaire du conseil d'administration du CISSSO, Yves St-Onge, qui a présenté le rapport annuel 2022-2023 et les objectifs pour l'année à venir.

Il a été annoncé que le CISSSO sera remplacé par une succursale locale de Santé-Québec, un organisme administratif centralisé, à la suite de l'adoption du projet de loi 15 le 9 décembre dernier. Santé-Québec Outaouais n'aura plus de pouvoir décisionnel et se concentrera sur la surveillance, le contrôle de la qualité, la recherche et l'évaluation. St-Onge a indiqué qu'un comité de transition dirigé par le sous-ministre de la Santé et des Services sociaux, Daniel Paré, supervisera la transition du réseau du CISSS à Santé-Québec au cours des prochains mois.

Le rapport comprenait des mises à jour sur l'état d'avancement du nouvel hôpital universitaire (CHAU), qui attend l'approbation du gouvernement pour un chantier de construction. « Bien qu'il puisse sembler que les choses n'avancent pas, le travail de fond sur le projet progresse en douceur en attendant une évaluation du futur site. Les équipes travaillent depuis 2 ans sur le plan de développement clinique de l'hôpital, qui est suffisamment polyvalent pour que les architectes puissent l'adapter à n'importe quel site choisi », a déclaré St-Onge. « Que cela se produise aujourd'hui ou au cours des prochains mois, nous avons une équipe à temps plein qui travaille sur ce projet et nous serons plus ou moins prêts à aller de l'avant dès que le site sera finalisé », a-t-il ajouté.

Des mises à jour ont également été partagées concernant cinq résidences pour aînés et des logements alternatifs dans la

région : la résidence du Parc-de-la-Montagne a officiellement ouvert ses portes le 16 novembre ; la construction d'une nouvelle résidence à Maniwaki a commencé le 28 juin et devrait se terminer en avril 2025 ; et une autre nouvelle résidence à Masson-Angers a commencé la construction le 30 janvier (devrait se terminer en février 2025). Des premières mesures ont également été prises pour ajouter 48 nouvelles places en résidence pour aînés au CHSLD Vallée-de-la-Lièvre, qui seront disponibles en octobre 2026, et un futur projet d'agrandissement ajoutera 24 places en résidence pour personnes âgées au CHSLD des Collines avec des dates à déterminer.

L'embauche et le maintien en poste des travailleurs de la santé continuent d'être un défi en Outaouais. St-Onge a cité des salaires plus élevés et de meilleures conditions de travail dans la région voisine de l'Ontario comme la principale raison pour laquelle les gens quittent le secteur local des soins de santé. Il a déclaré qu'un programme de rémunération différentielle pour l'Outaouais afin d'attirer et de retenir plus de personnel a récemment été proposé par le gouvernement comme l'une des dernières étapes des négociations en cours avec les travailleurs de la santé. La proposition comprend également des programmes de rémunération différentielle pour l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue et la région du Nord-Est et de la Côte-Nord.

Le rapport annuel complet 2022-2023 du CISSSO se trouve à <http://ciiss-ouataouais.gouv.qc.ca/mon-ciiss-rapports-et-publications-administratives/rapports-annuels/>.

Un rapport sur les plaintes et la satisfaction des utilisateurs a également été partagé par la commissaire aux plaintes et à la qualité des services, Marion Carrière, et se trouve à l'adresse suivante : <http://ciiss-ouataouais.gouv.qc.ca/mon-ciiss-rapports-et-publications-administratives/rapports-du-commissaire-aux-plaintes/>



PINE LODGE'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CRAFT MARKET

The market had shoppers and vendors alike in the Christmas spirit on Saturday, November 18. With 31 vendors, there was something for everyone on your list. A great variety of items included handmade, wearable designs; unique glass artwork; local herbal products; handcrafted log/live edge furniture; and treats to eat.

-Cheryl Dolan

PHOTO: Delunan Creations at the Pine Lodge Christmas Craft Market on November 18.

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et de la SAAQ seront fermés les

25-26-27 DÉCEMBRE 2023
et 1-2-3 JANVIER 2024.

The team at the MRC Pontiac
wish you all a very Happy
Holiday Season and a
wonderful New Year 2024!

The MRC Pontiac and SAAQ
offices will be closed on

DECEMBER 25-26-27, 2023
and JANUARY 1-2-3, 2024.

Clôture parlementaire invoquée, adoption du projet de la loi 15

GREG NEWING

QUÉBEC - Le gouvernement du Québec a officiellement adopté le projet de loi 15 après avoir invoqué la clôture pour mettre fin au débat parlementaire à ce sujet, le 9 décembre. Le projet de loi est l'une des plus importantes réformes des soins de santé de l'histoire de la province et centralisera toute l'administration des soins de santé sous une seule entité appelée Santé-Québec.

Le ministre de la Santé, Christian Dubé, a décrit le projet de loi comme un pas vers un « réseau de soins de santé plus accessible et plus efficace ». « Après plus de huit mois de travail sur le projet de loi 15 à l'Assemblée nationale, nous sommes fiers de son adoption... Il est essentiel de souligner tous les efforts déployés pour en arriver là, ainsi que tout le travail accompli par le ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux et la collaboration de tous les partenaires du réseau et des groupes d'opposition », a déclaré le ministre Dubé.

Selon le porte-parole de l'opposition officielle en matière de santé et député de Pontiac, André Fortin, seulement 700 des 1200 articles du projet de loi ont été étudiés avant que le gouvernement n'invoque la fermeture pour l'accélérer. Il a déclaré qu'au moins 100 articles importants concernant les services paramédicaux restaient à étudier. « C'est malheureux que nous n'ayons pas eu l'intention de l'étudier et de l'améliorer », a déclaré M. Fortin. « Nous sommes dans une situation où nous n'étudions pas les clauses qui pourraient avoir des répercussions importantes sur notre système de santé. Tout le monde collaborait, personne ne prenait trop de temps, personne ne faisait obstruction au projet de loi. Le ministre lui-même a fait remarquer que tous les membres du comité étaient productifs », a déclaré M. Fortin.

En vertu de la nouvelle loi, tous les processus décisionnels administratifs seront centralisés à Santé-Québec, qui deviendra également le seul employeur pour les travailleurs de la santé à travers la province. Le CISSSO, l'actuel bureau de santé de la région de l'Outaouais, sera remplacé par une succursale régionale de Santé-Québec qui supervisera les opérations de santé

en Outaouais, mais qui n'aura plus aucun pouvoir décisionnel. Alors que la loi est officiellement entrée en vigueur le 13 décembre, Santé-Québec mettra environ 6 mois à mettre en place, au cours de laquelle le CISSSO continuera de fonctionner. Selon le président par intérim du CISSSO, Yves St-Onge, un comité de transition dirigé par le sous-ministre de la Santé et des Services sociaux, Daniel Paré, supervisera la transition du réseau du CISSS à Santé-Québec.

Le ministre Dubé a promis de la transparence pendant la période de transition et a rassuré les travailleurs de la santé ; « Les changements à venir, notamment la création de Santé-Québec, sont majeurs. Nous effectuerons cette transition graduellement et de façon transparente, tout en respectant le personnel du réseau de la santé ».

M. Fortin s'est dit préoccupé par le fait que le retrait des pouvoirs décisionnels locaux pourrait démobiliser les travailleurs de la santé dans toute la province. « Le projet de loi laisse très peu de place à l'adaptation et à l'innovation locales. Si toutes les décisions viennent de Québec, il n'y a vraiment pas de place pour que les travailleurs s'impliquent et améliorent leur milieu de travail... il n'y a plus de lieux où les médecins et les infirmières locaux peuvent contester les décisions », a-t-il déclaré. Il a ajouté que la centralisation de l'ensemble de la prise de décision à Santé-Québec pourrait également mener à une « urbanisation » accrue des soins de santé avec encore moins de services offerts en milieu rural et dans des établissements comme l'Hôpital du Pontiac.

Dans les semaines qui ont précédé l'adoption du projet de loi, le débat s'est concentré sur le droit d'accéder aux soins de santé en anglais après que le ministre Dubé a déposé un amendement accordant à Santé-Québec le pouvoir de révoquer le statut bilingue des hôpitaux sans aucun recours à la contestation dans les régions où la population d'expression anglaise est réputée inférieure à 50 %. L'amendement a par la suite été retiré à la suite de critiques des partis d'opposition, puis réintroduit avec une clause stipulant que Santé-Québec ne peut révoquer le statut bilingue que si la décision est approuvée par les comités d'accès anglophones.

Joyeuses Fêtes

Happy Holidays

De ma famille à la vôtre, je vous souhaite un merveilleux temps des Fêtes et une très bonne année.

Best wishes for a wonderful Holiday and a very Happy New Year, from my family to yours.

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Une pétition demande un contrôle international des projets de déchets nucléaires

DEBORAH POWELL

CHALK RIVER – Une nouvelle pétition électronique de la Chambre des communes a été ouverte aux signatures le 11 décembre. Initiée par Ole Hendrickson, écologiste et

chercheur pour Concerned Citizens of Renfrew County and Area, et autorisée par la députée de Pontiac Sophie Chatel, la pétition demande au gouvernement du Canada d'ordonner à la Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire (CCSN) de ne prendre aucune

décision sur l'autorisation d'une installation de stockage des déchets radioactifs à moins que les obligations du Canada en vertu de la Déclaration des Nations Unies sur les droits des peuples autochtones (DNUDPA) ne soient respectées. La pétition demande également que l'Agence internationale de l'énergie atomique (AIEA) examine les grands projets des Laboratoires Nucléaires Canadiens concernant l'élimination permanente des déchets radioactifs hérités du gouvernement.

L'explication donnée dans la pétition indique que l'approbation des projets d'installations d'élimination des déchets nucléaires pourrait contrevenir au paragraphe 29(2) de la DNUDPA : « Aucun stockage ou élimination de matières dangereuses ne peut avoir lieu sur les terres ou les territoires des peuples autochtones sans leur consentement libre, préalable et éclairé. » Ce point avait été catégoriquement soulevé plus récemment lors de l'audience de la CCSN sur le projet d'installation de stockage près de la surface (FDSN) de Chalk River en août dernier, lorsque la Première Nation Kebaowek, Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg et les Mitchikanibikok Inik (les Algonquins de Barriere Lake) se sont réunis à Ottawa pour faire leurs présentations.

En ce qui concerne l'appel à un examen de l'AIEA, la pétition demande spécifiquement ARTEMIS, qui est le service intégré d'examen par les pairs de l'AIEA pour les programmes de gestion des déchets radioactifs et du combustible usé, de déclassement et de remise en état. Le plan ministériel 2018 de la CCSN

comprendait la demande d'une mission d'examen d'ARTEMIS pour passer en revue les dossiers de sûreté des grands projets proposés par les Laboratoires Nucléaires Canadiens, mais la CCSN n'a jamais fait la demande. Au lieu de cela, il y a eu une demande pour un service d'examen réglementaire intégré (IRSS). Le rapport de cet examen a été publié par l'AIEA au début de 2020 et a révélé que la politique ou la stratégie nationale canadienne liée à la gestion des déchets radioactifs manquait cruellement de substance.

Les citoyens concernés du comté et de la région de Renfrew et d'autres groupes intéressés ont demandé une rencontre avec la députée Chatel dès que possible. Dans sa demande, M. Hendrickson a écrit : « Comme cette question est d'une grande importance et urgente, nous aimerions lancer le processus d'identification des représentants du gouvernement à rencontrer pour nous assurer qu'un examen ARTEMIS, qui serait à l'avantage de tous les Canadiens, a lieu » et qu'un « examen indépendant des propositions actuelles pour l'élimination des déchets radioactifs fédéraux pourrait révéler de meilleures solutions de rechange qui répondraient aux préoccupations environnementales tout en économisant de l'argent pour les contribuables. »

La pétition est ouverte à la signature jusqu'au 10 janvier et peut être consultée à l'adresse suivante : <https://www.noscommunes.ca/petitions/fr/Petition/Details?Petition=e-4676>



Le conseil d'administration du Club Quad du Pontiac aimerait remercier tous ses membres, ainsi que toutes les municipalités et les propriétaires nous donnant un droit de passage
Nous tenons à vous souhaiter

Un Joyeux Noël et une Bonne et Heureuse Année!

The Administration Council of Club Quad du Pontiac would like to thank all our members, the municipalities and all landowners giving access rights.
We would like to wish everyone

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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*Joyeuses fêtes!
Happy Holidays!*

We thank you for the trust and support you have shown us throughout the year. The entire CAMA Industries team wishes you and your loved ones health, happiness and prosperity!

Joyeux Noël et bonne année du Haut Pontiac

New location and directors for Pontiac Genealogy Society



The Pontiac Genealogy Society's board of directors, past and present, from left: Peter Smith, Cynthia Belaire, Jerome Herault (past Treasurer), Donna Gagnon, Patsea Griffin, Ruth Doary (past President), Rejean Marion and Helen Davis.

PETER L. SMITH

L'ISLE-AUX-ALLUMETTES - The Pontiac Genealogy Society has a new home inside the Chapeau Regionale Gallerie and a board of directors from L'Isle-aux-Allumettes. The Society was formerly located in the George Bryson House in Mansfield, with volunteers attending local events such as Village en Fete in Fort-Coulonge and Heritage Days in L'Isle-aux-Allumettes to speak with residents about family tree research.

The Society was established in March 2006 when their patent letter was issued, serving the entire MRC Pontiac. They were created with the goal of tracing Pontiac families' roots, allowing them to learn about their ancestors. They also conduct research for families from other regions who originated from the Pontiac.

Since then, outgoing President Ruth Doary noted they have produced and marketed over 350 family trees, researching them thoroughly to ensure a high level of accuracy. They have also completed research on 400 Pontiac families.

The society operates on donations and applies for annual grants for a summer student to assist with the research. Volunteers devote many hours to searching for family history through church records and other methods. They hope young people will become involved and develop a sense of pride and belonging to their roots, returning to the region to participate in the development of their communities.

The new board of directors includes President Donna Gagnon, Vice President Rejean Marion, Secretary Patsea Griffin, and Treasurer Helen Davis as

well as Cynthia Belaire and Peter Smith as members.

BREAD OF LIFE CHRISTMAS FEAST

Desjardinsville caterer Bread of Life was busy Saturday, December 16, at Harrington Community Centre in L'Isle-aux-Allumettes cooking up and serving a full-course Christmas dinner. The hall was decked with Christmas trees on stage and beautiful table centrepieces, adding to the festive atmosphere. The meal, consisting of roast turkey, ham, stuffing, mashed potatoes, carrots, salad and an abundance of homemade desserts, was very well received by those who attended. "We thoroughly enjoyed our scrumptious meals!" said one guest. "The homemade stuffing was worth going back for seconds." they added. The evening was an opportunity not only to share a great homecooked meal, but also to enjoy some fellowship during the Christmas season.



Bread of Life is available to cater any function including birthday parties or other special family gatherings. The business has previously catered events at Northfork in Nichabau and Islandfest in Chapeau this past summer.

-Peter L. Smith

PHOTO: Caroline Pomeroy, propriétaire de Bread of Life Catering, montre la dinde rôtie qui faisait partie du repas de Noël au Centre communautaire Harrington, le 16 décembre.

Je vous souhaite, ainsi qu'à vos familles, un joyeux Noël et une très bonne année.
Ce fut un plaisir pour moi de participer à vos événements communautaires.

May you and your families have a Joyful Christmas and a Very Happy New Year.
It has been my pleasure to be involved with your community events.

Peter L. Smith
peterlsmith50@gmail.com

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Director General - Alicia Jones

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Municipalité de LISLE-AUX-ALLUMETTES
Mayor Corey Spence, Councillors,
Director General - Alicia Jones

Municipalité de WALTHAM Municipality
Mayor Odette Godin & Councillors
Director General - Fern Roy

CISSSO update

New hospital, staff retention, and transition to Santé-Québec Outaouais

GREG NEWING
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

OUTAOUAIS – About 40 people attended an online public information session organized by the Centre intégré de santé et services sociaux de l'Outaouais (CISSSO), December 14. The meeting was facilitated by CISSSO interim president and board secretary Yves St-Onge who presented the 2022-2023 annual report and goals for the upcoming year.

It was announced that CISSSO will be replaced by a local branch of Santé-Québec, a centralized administrative body, following the adoption of Bill 15 on December 9. Santé-Québec Outaouais will no longer have decision making powers and will focus on oversight, quality control, research and evaluation. St-Onge said a transitional committee led by Deputy Health and Social Services Minister Daniel Paré will oversee the transition from the CISSS network to Santé-Québec over the coming months.

The report included progress updates on the new university hospital (CHAU), which is awaiting government approval for a construction site. "Although it might seem like things aren't advancing, the background work on the project is progressing smoothly pending an assessment of the future site. Teams have been working for 2 years on the hospital's clinical development plan, which is versatile enough that the architects will be able to adapt it to whatever site is chosen," said St-Onge. "Whether it happens today or sometime in the coming months, we have a full-time team working on this project and will be more or less ready to go ahead as soon as the site is finalized," he added.

Updates were also shared concerning five seniors' residences and alternative housing facilities in the region: the Parc-de-la-Montagne residence officially opened on November 16; construction began for a new residence in Maniwaki on June 28 and is projected to be finished in April 2025; and another new residence in Masson-Angers began construction on January 30 (projected to finish in February 2025). Initial steps were also taken to add 48 new senior's residence spaces to the CHSLD Vallée-de-la-Lièvre, which will be available in October 2026, and a future expansion project will add 24 senior's residence spaces to the CHSLD des Collines with dates to be determined.

Hiring and retaining healthcare workers continues to be a challenge in the Outaouais. St-Onge cited higher salaries and better working conditions in nearby Ontario as the major reason for people leaving the local healthcare sector. He said a differential pay program for Outaouais to attract and retain more staff was recently proposed by the government as one of the latest steps in the ongoing negotiations with healthcare workers. The proposal also includes differential pay programs for Abitibi-Témiscamingue and the north-eastern and Côte-Nord region.

CISSSO's full 2022-2023 annual report can be found at <http://ciyss-ouataouais.gouv.qc.ca/mon-ciyss/rapports-et-publications-administratives/rapports-annuels/>.

A report on complaints and user satisfaction was also shared by complaints and service quality commissioner Marion Carrière and can be found at: <http://ciyss-ouataouais.gouv.qc.ca/mon-ciyss/rapports-et-publications-administratives/rapports-du-commissaire-aux-plaintes/>

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"THE BEST PARADE EVER!"

The streets of Quyon were aglow with the Parade of Lights December 2. Beautiful floats, trucks, 4-wheelers and bikes made their way from Onslow School to the Community Centre. Organizers Lions and Lionettes outdid themselves with 28 parade entries and hotdogs (donated by Joanne and Carmen Marcotte) and hot chocolate at the Community Centre after the parade.

Santa stayed to visit with over 100 children taking their turn on his lap, whispering their Christmas wishes, and receiving a bag of candy. A few weren't relying on Canada Post this year and took great pleasure in hand-delivering their lists to the jolly old man themselves. It was overheard by several that the parade was "the best ever".

For the floats, first place went to Jace Campbell, second was Ecole St. Marie and third place went to Kris Belsher and family. **-Cheryl Dolan**
PHOTO: Santa visits with his littlest elf at the Quyon Parade of Lights, December 2

New road safety bill

Mandatory Class 1 training; 30km/h school zones

TASHI FARMILO
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

QUÉBEC - To enhance road safety, Geneviève Guilbault, Quebec's Deputy Premier and Minister of Transport and Sustainable Mobility, introduced a landmark bill at the National Assembly, December 8. The bill is an integral part of the Road Safety Action Plan (PASR) 2023-2028.

The proposed legislation includes several critical amendments to the Highway Safety Code. Notably, it sets a maximum speed limit of 30 km/h in school zones to protect vulnerable road users, particularly in areas where children are present. In addition, the bill seeks to enhance the use of technology through increased deployment of automated control devices, like photo radars, to enforce compliance, especially in school zones.

A significant aspect of the bill is the introduction of compulsory training for commercial vehicle licenses, specifically targeting heavy vehicles requiring a Class 1 license. This includes various types of heavy-duty trucks and road tractors.

The mandatory training for new candidates seeking a Class 1 license is a proactive measure to enhance the skills and safety awareness of commercial vehicle drivers. While heavy vehicles make up only 4% of traffic on Quebec

roads, they are involved in 24% of fatal accidents. These fatalities have increased by more than 17% since 2021, according to SAAQ spokesperson Geneviève Côté.

By focusing on the types of vehicles that pose the greatest risk due to their size and weight, the legislation aims to reduce the likelihood of accidents, improve overall road safety, and reinforce the province's commitment to aligning with the Canadian Safety Code's standards (standard 16), ensuring a high level of training and competency among new drivers. The Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec (SAAQ) will oversee the training programs.

However, current Class 1 license holders will not be subject to this new training requirement. The government is focusing on elevating the skills of new drivers from the outset of their careers. The government anticipates that the majority of Canadian administrations will implement similar mandatory training requirements by 2025. Quebec's approach involves legislative changes followed by regulatory modifications, as outlined in Bill 48, to adjust the conditions for accessing Class 1 licenses.

The bill is part of a larger vision to transform Quebec's roads into safer spaces. Over \$180 million has been earmarked to implement PASR measures

over the next five years. This comprehensive approach includes developing a safe network for all, preventing risky behaviors, innovating in research and technology, and communicating best practices in road safety.

Éric Ducharme, SAAQ president-director general, stated, "Legislation is an indispensable tool for inducing sustainable behavioral changes, especially when paired with awareness and control activities. The various measures will undoubtedly enhance the safety of road



users significantly, improving our overall road safety record."

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2024

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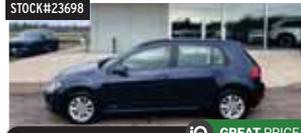
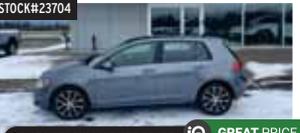
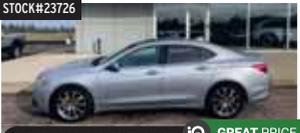
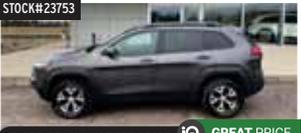
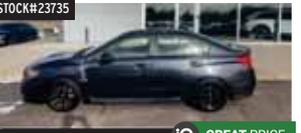
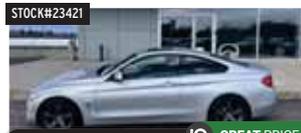
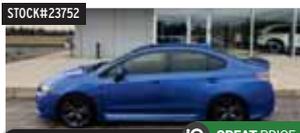
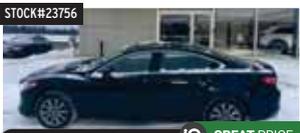
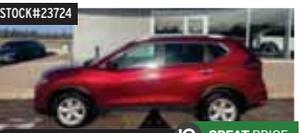


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<p>STOCK#23421</p>  <p>\$1,638 BELOW MARKET PRICE iQ GREAT PRICE</p> <p>2016 BMW 428i xDrive i AWD . FULLY LOADED</p> <p>\$24,88* \$291* +HST & LIC 48 MTH BIWEEKLY</p>	<p>STOCK#23752</p>  <p>\$1,291 BELOW MARKET PRICE iQ GREAT PRICE</p> <p>2017 Subaru WRX Sport-tech AWD . AUTOMATIC . HEATED SEATS</p> <p>\$24,944* \$213* +HST & LIC 72 MTH BIWEEKLY</p>	<p>STOCK#23756</p>  <p>\$4,937 BELOW MARKET PRICE iQ GREAT PRICE</p> <p>2021 Mazda 6 GS-L EX DAILY RENTAL . 91,791 KM</p> <p>\$25,444* \$195* +HST & LIC 84 MTH BIWEEKLY</p>	<p>STOCK#23733</p>  <p>\$1,745 BELOW MARKET PRICE iQ GREAT PRICE</p> <p>2020 Nissan Rogue S AWD . 97,840 KM</p> <p>\$25,888* \$198* +HST & LIC 84 MTH BIWEEKLY</p>	<p>STOCK#23724</p>  <p>\$1,486 BELOW MARKET PRICE iQ GREAT PRICE</p> <p>2020 Nissan Rogue S AWD . HEATED WHEEL</p> <p>\$25,888* \$198* +HST & LIC 84 MTH BIWEEKLY</p>	<p>STOCK#23734</p>  <p>\$3,303 BELOW MARKET PRICE iQ GREAT PRICE</p> <p>2019 VW Atlas 3.6 FSI HIGHLINE . AWD . 4MOTION</p> <p>\$33,944* \$260* +HST & LIC 84 MTH BIWEEKLY</p>

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Cheryl Campbell honoured for 50 years of harmony

CLIFFORD WELSH

SHAWVILLE – The acknowledgement of a special achievement took place December 10 at the Shawville United Church when, as part of morning worship, Cheryl Campbell's 80th birthday and her 50 years as choir director were recognized.

Spaced throughout the service were four special choir arrangements conducted by Campbell with Vincent Marr from Ottawa on piano and four short speeches by friends, former church members, a former minister and former choir members.

Joan Conrod, who has been friends with Campbell for 56 years, described how when Cheryl and her late husband George arrived in Shawville, people signed on for one-year contracts often only stayed for a couple of years. She described how George, who "could play any instrument thrust into his hands", became music teacher and band director at Pontiac High School and Cheryl began her experience with the music program at Shawville United. Conrod also reminisced about how in the 1980s, the Sunday School program had over 120 children registered, and the pews were packed at every special service due to Campbell's efforts. Campbell taught piano and was a sought-after soloist for weddings and funerals throughout the Pontiac.

Glenda Baker spoke on behalf of former Shawville United minister Rev. Paula Mullin who couldn't attend. Mullin reminisced about how in her first time in the pulpit as the interim minister in the summer of 2000, she was "awestruck" as the choir began to sing. Campbell's outreach into the community through her participation in the Pontiac Players musicals was also noted.

Eleanor Hodgins expressed appreciation for Campbell's work and told a brief humorous anecdote about a hot summer day with all the windows open when one of the soloists was accompanied by a neighbour's dog.

Beth Armitage, who was unable to attend but sent a message to read, said "I may be the only choir member who remembers that very first choir practice! ... A new mezzo soprano voice and another male choir member were a definite addition to the group!" She went on to say, "Little did we know what a significant part of the congregation Cheryl and George would come to be...She has always been encouraging and welcoming to all who participate in the choir and never tired of going over parts to help everyone get it just right!"

Rev. Schalk W Naude presented Campbell with a commemorative hymn board to be placed on the wall at the front of the church.



Cheryl Campbell with the commemorative hymn board acknowledging her 50 years as director of the Shawville United Church choir.

Campbell spoke of how her life has been enriched by those she has worked with in the choir ministry. Thanking her family for their support throughout the years, she turned to direct the choir in their final number saying, "I'll try to do this if I can see through the tears!"



Skylar Meranger, Malorie Lacroix-Matthews, and Alaina Lance strike a pose with the raffle's grand prize.

OTTER LAKE CRAFT SHOW SPREADS CHRISTMAS CHEER

The Otter Lake RA Hall was filled with the buzz of excitement and Christmas music, November 4, as 40 vendors and hundreds of eager shoppers attended the town's annual craft and vendor show, hosted by Crystal Dubeau and Rumours Resto-Café; it was the biggest yet.

The show raised funds for Operation Christmas Child, an organization that ships shoeboxes full of toys, personal care items and gifts to millions of underprivileged children around the world.

"This is a wonderful opportunity each year, and I enjoyed it so much. The event is the highlight of my year," said Nathalie Bennet, owner of Hodge Podge Artizan Art Studio in Mansfield.

There were many raffle prizes donated by local businesses. Betty Richard won the grand prize: an inflatable Santa and his reindeer. Lynn Beaudoin won the 50/50 draw (\$147). This year included a silent auction, with hundreds of dollars in vouchers and Rumours gift certificates awarded between Lise St. Aubin, Tiffany Marrazzo, Caro Gagne, and Martin Stein.

Plans are already underway to make next year's show even bigger and better.

-Crystal Dubeau

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UPPER PONTIAC SPORTS COMPLEX WINTER READY

The Upper Pontiac Sports Complex is in full swing for the season. The adult hockey league has the ice Mondays and Thursdays, while the Chapeau Minor Hockey group take their turn Saturdays. Wednesday nights feature open skating from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at a cost of \$1.00 for kids and \$2.00 for adults. A big hit at the Sports Complex is the Friday night free skate from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. thanks to sponsors.

The Wrangler Cafe is staffed by volunteer high school students from Dr. Wilbert Keon School who serve food and beverages. The canteen has added fresh-cut fries to the menu this year.

The Upper Pontiac Sports Complex, in existence for over 40 years, is run by a board of volunteers who look after all aspects of the arena. The Municipalities of Chichester, Sheenboro, Waltham and L'Isle-aux-Allumettes, and the Caisse Desjardins des Rivières de Pontiac (Chapeau), annually contribute financially to the Sports Complex. Ice rentals are available by contacting Robert Chaffe at 819-689-5504.

PHOTO: Kids gathered for the Friday night free skate at the Upper Pontiac Sports Complex.

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YOUNG AT HEART CLUB CHRISTMAS DINNER

The Chapeau Young at Heart Club enjoyed their annual Christmas dinner Wednesday, December 13, at Harrington Community Centre. Ullrich's of Pembroke catered the event serving more than 180 patrons including some takeout meals. Larry Turner provided live Christmas music throughout the evening.

PHOTO: Seniors partake of a turkey dinner with all the trimmings at the annual Chapeau Young at Heart Club Christmas Dinner.



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from the Upper Pontiac

MRS. NEPHIN CELEBRATES 90TH BIRTHDAY

Mrs. Bertha Nephin, a former Nichabau resident, celebrated her 90th birthday early with family and friends at St. Joseph Centre for Families and Seniors in L'Isle-aux-Allumettes on Saturday, December 9. Her birthday was December 18. Mrs. Nephin and late husband, Thaddeus (Thady), have eight children, 19 grandchildren, and 29 great-grandchildren. Mrs. Nephin now resides at Marianhill in Pembroke and enjoys having friends drop by for visits.

-Peter L. Smith

PHOTO: Mrs. Bertha Nephin and family at her 90th birthday celebration on December 9.



HELPING THE IMPOVERISHED IN PERU

Yves Lafontaine and wife, Kay, met with the Tuesday Social Club in L'Isle-aux-Allumettes on December 5 to talk about their work in Peru. For more than 30 years, the couple have been helping impoverished Peruvians through the Rotary Club of Ottawa. Past projects include improving water supply, soup kitchens, school projects, a textile factory and more.

The Lafontaines and the Rotary encourage the Peruvians to come up with local initiatives to improve quality of life, which the Rotary will fund. 0% interest loans are available to impoverished Peruvian women wishing to start their own projects, as women make up much of the labour force there.

Donna Gagnon of Chichester has raised \$600 for the Peru projects by knitting little dolls which she calls "Kendyl Sleeping Dolls". For a \$20 donation, a doll can be purchased and delivered to a child in Peru.

Donations can be made by contacting the Rotary Club of Ottawa by email at hugh@dynamicplanet.com or admin@rotaryottawa.com.

The Lafontaines will be leaving for Peru in January, where they plan to visit many villages.

-Peter L. Smith

PHOTO: Donna Gagnon (right) displays her Kendyl Sleeping Dolls with Bernie Hendry (left), treasurer of the Tuesday Social Club.



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REGAL BEAGLE'S UGLY CHRISTMAS SWEATER PARTY
Chapeau's Résidence Meilleur du Haut Pontiac received a special early Christmas donation of \$1,300 on December 16 thanks to brothers Ray and Neil Vennasse. The brothers bought a handmade wooden Christmas tree carved by Sheenboro native Gerald Wheeler. The tree was auctioned off at George's Regal Beagle Friday evening at the Ugly Christmas Sweater event, with proceeds going to Résidence Meilleur du Haut Pontiac.
-Peter L. Smith
PHOTO: L/R: Neil Vennasse, Gerald Wheeler, Ray Vennasse, and Regal Beagle owner George Picard.




MERRY CHRISTMAS!

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COOKIE ELVES

The Upper Pontiac Cookie Elves gathered at Harrington Community Centre in L'Isle-aux-Allumettes on December 11 to pack treat bags with cookies baked by local families and mini meat pies made by Karl's Bakery in Chapeau.

Volunteer "cookie elves" delivered the treats to over 50 families between Chichester, Nichabau, and L'Isle-aux-Allumettes.
-Peter L. Smith

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PHOTO: L/R: Cookie Elves: Sharon Picard, Sue Collin, Nancy Brisard, Bernadette Hendry, Mike Mainville, Gene O'Brien, Vicky Tinot, Nicole Bertrand, Lucie Chartrand, Peggy Shannon, and Annette Craise.



MRC seeks public's input on forestry

SOPHIE DEMERS
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

MRC PONTIAC - The public is invited to participate in a consultation on new potential areas for commercial or non-commercial forestry and silviculture work in the next 5 years in accordance with the Ministère des Ressources naturelles et des Forêts's (MRNF) Operational Integrated Forest Management Plans (PAFIO). Potential activities include site preparation, reforestation, harvesting, recovering wood affected by spruce budworm, pre-commercial thinning and cleaning, and road construction and rehabilitation.

The consultation is the result of a mandate given to MRC Pontiac from the MRNF. The public consultation is open to comments until December 23, giving residents an opportunity to express concerns and details they feel the Quebec government should know before conducting work on the sites.

Six units in the Outaouais are considered potential new areas of intervention: Coulonge field units UA 071-51 and 071-52; in Basse-Lièvre

UA 072-51; and in Haute-Gatineau-et-du-Cabonga UA 073-51, 073-52 and 074-51. These areas could be targeted, but it's not guaranteed. Work could start as early as 2024.

Work falls under various categories:

- Site preparation: prepare for planting more trees.
- Reforestation: plant ferrous plants to accelerate forest growth through plant composition and spacing.
- Settlement education: cutting a portion of trees to reduce competition and improve growth.
- Quality pruning: cutting off living, deceased branches, or those with parasites to improve wood quality and reduce disease.
- Spruce budworm special management plan: harvesting wood unlikely to resist epidemic before the tree becomes unfit for processing.

To participate, the public can visit the Quebec Government website: <https://www.quebec.ca/agriculture-environnement-et-ressources-naturelles/forets/planification-forestiere/plans-regionaux-consultations/outaouais/pafio-nov2023>

CHRISTMAS FOOD HAMPERS

In keeping with their motto, "We serve", the Chapeau and District Lions Club members and other volunteers met Saturday, December 16, at Harrington Community Centre to pack up and distribute 35 Christmas food hampers to less fortunate families in L'Isle-aux-Allumettes. The baskets contained everything needed to prepare a full course Christmas dinner: a frozen turkey, potatoes, vegetables, cranberries, gravy and desserts. Over 15 families also received gifts for their children along with the food baskets.

-Peter L. Smith

PHOTO: Chapeau and District Lions Club member Paul Chartrand spreads Christmas cheer with gift bags full of food items for Christmas hampers.



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Community Christmas dinner feeds those in need

PETER L. SMITH

PEMBROKE – Preparations have been underway for the Annual Christmas Community Dinner thanks to volunteers from the Society of St. Vincent de Paul - St. Columbkille Conference. The meal is a complete roast turkey dinner that will be delivered free to those in need on Saturday, December 23.

Over 400 meals were served last year, with numbers expected to increase this year.

Continuing supporters of the annual event include Fred Blackstein, who organizes the delivery teams to ensure everyone receives their Christmas meal; the Pembroke Business Improvement Area (P.B.I.A.), who receives calls to register for the dinner; many local businesses including Food Basics, Steven and Julie's No Frills, and Giant Tiger; and numerous other community members.

"We are very grateful for their support" stressed Deacon Adrian Chaput, a member of the clergy at St. Columbkille Cathedral, and involved with St. Vincent de Paul Society.



The Pembroke Community Christmas Dinners will be delivered to those in need on Saturday, December 23. (File photo)

For more information about receiving the turkey dinner and to register, please contact the P.B.I.A. at 613-629-5555.



DAPER CHRISTMAS DEALS

Pembroke's Town & Country Men's Shop is ready for the Christmas season with great specials storewide. The business, owned by Rick Lewis since 2001, is one of the longest established in the downtown core, having served customers for 68 years.

PHOTO: L/R: Gary Geoffrey, Arthur O'Grady, Rick Malone, and Dan Cornell (kneeling). The staff at Town & Country Men's Shop have over 100 years combined experience in the retail sector.

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Pembroke warming centre open for those in need



Pembroke Mayor Ron Gervais stands on the steps of the warming centre.

PETER L. SMITH
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

PEMBROKE – Renfrew County, the City of Pembroke, the Township of Laurentian Valley, and the Town of Petawawa have joined together to establish an overnight warming centre for those in need. The City of Pembroke has committed \$100,000 towards the centre. Renfrew County has committed \$80,000, and the Township of Laurentian Valley, \$20,000.

The centre will be open each night from 10:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. and is expected to be operational until April 2024. The centre is located in a mobile construction trailer at the Pembroke Farmers Market site on Lake Street. Washroom facilities are also available. The centre is monitored by on-site security guards to ensure safety.

Pembroke Mayor Ron Gervais stressed the importance of the facility: "It is unfortunate that we have to set up such a facility, but fortunate we have it." he said.

DELIVERING CHRISTMAS CHEER

Desjardinsville homebased caterer, Caroline Pomeroy, delivered some treats to The Grind on Sunday afternoon, December 17, for those attending the worship service. The Grind is a volunteer-driven, faith-based charity offering a variety of services to those in need. The community kitchen relies on the generosity of community organizations and individuals to provide lunches to the less fortunate from Tuesday to Friday. The Grind also offers services such as medical referrals, access to mental health and addictions counsellors, and referrals through Ontario Works.



-Peter L. Smith

PHOTO: Caroline Pomeroy and family with Deacon Adrian Chaput representing The Grind, Pembroke.



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BRYSON PARADE OF LIGHTS

The streets of Bryson were awash with lights and Christmas spirit the evening of December 1 for the annual Parade of Lights sponsored by the BGCP Fire Department and Municipality of Bryson. A record number of 20 floats participated.

After the parade, spectators enjoyed hot chocolate provided by the Lions Club and cookies donated by Suzie's Diner at the Bryson Lions Hall, as well as the opportunity to meet Santa and win prizes.

Fire Chief Shawn Bowie acknowledged the donation of the special sleigh carrying Santa by the family of the late Oscar and Denise Tourangeau. Daughter Lynne Tourangeau described how, after her father passed away, the family decided to sell the sleigh that had been in their family for over 35 years. When approached by the Bryson Fire Department about buying it, Lynne and her brothers decided to donate it to them, with the condition that a plaque in memory of Oscar and Denise Tourangeau be affixed to it.

The evening ended with a surprise donation of a defibrillator from the Bryson Lions Club to the BGCP Fire Department. Lions member Rose Gravelle expressed appreciation for all the firefighters do to protect citizens in times of crisis.

-Clifford Welsh

PHOTO: Santa riding in the "Horse Cutter" sleigh donated to the BGCP Fire Dept. by the Tourangeau Family, in memory of Oscar and Denise Tourangeau, at the Parade of Lights on December 1.



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Introducing Salt & Pepper Cross-Country Ski Club

DEBORAH POWELL

It's time to start thinking about keeping active this winter and there's a great opportunity to learn to cross-country ski, or just get out with others, by joining the new Salt & Pepper Club for Pontiac seniors!

This initiative from Ski At School, in partnership with Ski Pontiac, offers group outings on skis, twice a week, between January and March 2024, to various Pontiac sites.

Pre-season registration is required as places are limited. There is no cost to join this first year. The registration is simple and gives access to the following benefits:

- A welcome session at Astra Estate, Norway Bay, January 13
- Loan of a complete cross-country ski set for the season (if you do not have your own)
- Advice and support during outings from Ski At School and Ski Pontiac teams
- Community spirit and festive events
- Access to various recreational sites, such as Astra Estates, PATRO, Pine Lodge, Gatineau Park, and others



L/R: Deborah Powell, Joann Guilford, and Pat Ahearn enjoy some cross-country skiing. (Photo: Ski Pontiac)

To register, go to <https://skialecole.org/salt-pepper-club/>
For further information you can also contact Ski At School directly at benoithudon@skialecole.com.

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Petition calls for international check on nuclear waste projects

DEBORAH POWELL

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

CHALK RIVER – A new House of Commons e-petition opened for signatures December 11. Initiated by Ole Hendrickson, ecologist and researcher for Concerned Citizens of Renfrew County and Area, and authorized by Pontiac MP Sophie Chatel, the petition calls upon the Government of Canada to direct the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) to make no decision on licensing of a radioactive waste disposal facility unless Canada's obligations under the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) are met. The petition also calls for a review by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) of Canadian Nuclear Laboratories' major projects involving permanent disposal of the government's legacy radioactive waste.

The explanation in the petition states that project approvals for nuclear waste disposal facilities could violate UNDRIP Article 29(2): "no storage or

disposal of hazardous materials shall take place in the lands or territories of indigenous peoples without their free, prior and informed consent." This point had been adamantly made most recently at the CNSC hearing on the proposed Chalk River near surface disposal facility (NSDF) last August when Kebaowek First Nation, Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg and the Mitchikanibikok Inik (the Algonquins of Barriere Lake) gathered in Ottawa to make their presentations.

Regarding the call for an IAEA review, the petition specifically requests ARTEMIS, which is the IAEA's integrated expert peer review service for radioactive waste and spent fuel management, decommissioning and remediation programmes. CNSC's own Departmental Plan 2018 included asking for an ARTEMIS review mission to go over the safety cases for Canadian Nuclear Laboratories' proposed major projects but the CNSC never made the request. Instead, there was a request for an Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRSS). The report from this review was released by the IAEA in early 2020 and found that

the Canadian national policy or strategy related to radioactive waste management was severely lacking in substance.

Concerned Citizens of Renfrew County and Area and other interested groups have asked for a meeting with MP Chatel as soon as possible. In his request, Hendrickson wrote "As this issue is of high importance and time sensitive, we would like to initiate the process of identifying government officials to meet with to ensure that an ARTEMIS review, which would be to the benefit of all Canadians, takes place" and that an "independent examination of current proposals for disposal of federal radioactive waste could reveal better alternatives that would address environmental concerns while saving money for taxpayers."

Chatel's authorization of the petition does not necessarily mean she agrees with the opinions or request set out in the petition. The petition is open for signatures until January 10, and can be found at: <https://www.ourcommons.ca/petitions/en/Petition/Details?Petition=e-4676>

Economic Development Department of MRC Pontiac sees another departure

FRANÇOIS CARRIER

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

MRC PONTIAC – The new year will find the Economic Development Department of MRC Pontiac once again seeking a director. Current director Guillaume Boudreau, hired in November of last year, is now stepping down from the position.

The job offer has already been posted on the MRC website. At the time of going to press, the MRC had not yet returned calls from the *Journal*, but according to information obtained, Boudreau had other plans for the continuation of his career.

The office of the Director of Economic Development has had a revolving door. Boudreau succeeded Cyndy Phillips, hired in February 2020, who took the place of Danielle Newman, who left the MRC in January 2020. Émilie Chazelas, who held the position before Newman, resigned from the position in May 2018. She replaced Marc Fortin, who left his position in November 2016.

Among various tasks, the director will have to create and maintain business relationships with government ministries, organizations and institutions, as well as with local and regional partners,

while ensuring a close link with all the municipalities of the MRC. The person will also be responsible for supervising research and studies to assess the potential of certain economic development projects in the region, such

as Energy from Waste, which involves the installation of an incinerator to create electricity from the burning of municipal waste.

Applicants will need to submit their application by January 31, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. This is a fulltime executive position, 37.5 hours per week, the annual salary is between \$86,374 and \$113,662 depending on the candidate's experience.



OTTER LAKE ALIGHT

The Municipality of Otter Lake invited the community to gather for the 7th Annual Christmas Tree Lighting at Millennium Park on December 2. The festive evening was attended by dozens who enjoyed the lighting of the park with beautiful decorations, including a wonderful pine tree donated by local resident and talented artist, Nicolas Petkoglou, of Lone Wolf Chainsaw Art. After the small ceremony, everyone was treated to marshmallow pops and cupcakes courtesy of the municipality and made by Sarah's Sweet Treats.

-Crystal Dubeau

PHOTO: The Otter Lake Christmas tree donated by Nicolas Petkoglou of Lone Wolf Chainsaw Art.

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OTTER LAKE RA CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

Christmas celebrations kicked off in Otter Lake on December 2 at the Raymond Johnston Community Centre with a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus. The much-anticipated family event is a community tradition organized by the Otter Lake Recreation Association. Children were invited to meet Santa, share their Christmas wish, take a photo, and receive a gift. The kids enjoyed a free lunch of hotdogs, treats and drinks followed by music, dancing, and mingling with friends.

-Crystal Dubeau

PHOTO: 7-year-old Savannah Lance shares her Christmas wishes with Santa at the Otter Lake RA Children's Christmas Party

Mingle Jingle at the SADC

BONNIE JAMES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

FORT-COULONGE – The Pontiac Community Futures Development Corporation (SADC) held their annual Mingle Jingle business networking event, December 14 at their headquarters.

The morning event began with local entrepreneurs networking over coffee and snacks. It was well attended by the business community and politicians including MRC Pontiac Warden Jane Toller, Fort-Coulonge Mayor Christine Francoeur, and Mansfield Mayor Sandra Armstrong.

After SADC Director Rhonda Perry greeted attendees, it was time for the event's feature presentation by Jon Stewart of Calumet Media.

Stewart gave a presentation on harvesting first party data. He spoke about privacy and the law, highlighting businesses' responsibilities under Law 25; how data can be used and how a data strategy can benefit marketing, customer retention, planning, and automation; the different types of data (first, second, and third party) and how it can be legally collected from customers; cookies, website and social media analytics; and how artificial intelligence (AI) is useful for a variety of purposes from generating images and marketing materials to analyzing data.

Stewart brought it all together by



Jon Stewart of Calumet Media gave a presentation on harvesting first party data at the SADC's annual Mingle Jingle event on December 14.

giving an example of a dynamic data strategy featuring a fictional fitness business. He reiterated that an effective strategy will use data to deliver more impactful marketing, convert more leads into paying customers, reduce customer churn, and eliminate manual work. He also introduced the Canada Digital Adoption Program (CDAP) which provides larger small businesses with grants to create a digital data adoption plan; Stewart is an approved advisor for the service.

"I'm pleased with the level of

attendance this year. The annual event is a great networking opportunity for businesses. It gives the SADC's partners a chance to come together and meet entrepreneurs, exchange information, and learn about new programs and services. We were happy to host this year's event in our newly renovated building," said Perry.

Up next for the SADC, Stewart will be returning to give a series of four "Tech Talks" over the winter. Visit the SADC's website and social media pages for details.



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SORTIR DU BOIS est à la recherche de gens (18-45 ans) intéressés à vivre une expérience de travail rémunérée (15\$/heure) de 22 semaines. Cette démarche vise l'intégration au marché du travail. 819-648-5065. Venez tenter votre chance!

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JOB OFFER

SORTIR DU BOIS is looking for people (18-45) interested in a paid (15\$/hour) 22 week work experience that leads to reintegration on the labour market. 819-648-5065. Come and try it out!

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JOB OFFER



La nature
du Pontiac
à votre porté

La Fondation du Parc Leslie / Leslie Park Foundation

OPERATIONS MANAGER

Parc Leslie is a seasonal campground located on Leslie Lake in Otter Lake Quebec in the heart of the Pontiac Region. We offer 204 campsites, 2 cabins, children's playground, sandy beach, hiking trails and equipment rentals.

We are seeking a highly motivated individual with strong organizational and leadership skills and the ability to create a welcoming and enjoyable experience for campers and staff.

Responsabilités

- Oversee the day-to-day operations during the camping season
- Hiring, training, and managing staff
- Overseeing the on-line reservation system, including balancing the daily reports
- Manage seasonal campground renewals and waiting lists
- Resolving camper complaints
- Responsible for respecting the budget, daily cash flow, working with the bookkeeper to ensure accurate recording of revenues and expenses
- Social Media Management - website, facebook etc
- In the off season - responsible for staff recruitment, reservations, planning

Desired Skills

- Managerial background, experience in tourism management would be a plus
- Strong organizational and multi-tasking abilities
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Administrative computer skills (Microsoft office)
- Basic POS and or reservation software experience is an asset
- Valid driver's license and access to vehicle
- Knowledge of outdoor recreation and camping
- Good command of French and English (speaking and writing)
- Minimum of college level education in Business administration or Hotel Management and 3 years of relevant experience

This is a year round position, full time mid-April to mid- November and part time the rest of the year. The starting salary range for this position is \$55K to \$60K (to be negotiated). Start date: immediately

Submit your resume to Manager@parcleslie.com. Only candidates who meet requirements will be contacted.

OFFRE D'EMPLOI



La nature
du Pontiac
à votre porté

La Fondation du Parc Leslie / Leslie Park Foundation

DIRECTEUR DES OPÉRATIONS

Le parc Leslie est un terrain de camping saisonnier situé sur le lac Leslie, à Otter Lake, au Québec, au cœur de la région du Pontiac. Nous offrons 204 emplacements de camping, 2 chalets, une aire de jeux pour enfants, une plage de sable, des sentiers pédestres et la location d'équipement.

Nous recherchons une personne très motivée avec de solides compétences organisationnelles et de leadership et la capacité de créer une expérience accueillante et agréable pour les campeurs et le personnel.

Responsabilités

- Superviser les opérations quotidiennes pendant la saison de camping
- Embauche, formation et gestion du personnel
- Superviser le système de réservation en ligne, y compris l'équilibre des rapports quotidiens
- Gérer les renouvellements saisonniers des emplacements de camping et les listes d'attente
- Résoudre les plaintes des campeurs
- Respecter le budget, les flux de trésorerie quotidiens et collaborer avec le comptable pour assurer l'enregistrement précis des revenus et des dépenses
- Gestion des médias sociaux - site web, Facebook, etc.
- Hors saison - responsable du recrutement du personnel, des réservations, de la planification

Compétences souhaitées

- Expérience en gestion, une expérience dans la gestion touristique serait un atout.
- Solides capacités d'organisation et multitâches
- Excellentes compétences en communication et en relations interpersonnelles
- Compétences informatiques administratives (Microsoft Office)
- Expérience de base en logiciels de point de vente et/ou de réservation est un atout
- Permis de conduire valide et accès au véhicule
- Connaissance des loisirs de plein air et du camping
- Bonne maîtrise du français et de l'anglais (à l'oral et à l'écrit)
- Minimum d'études collégiales en administration des affaires ou en gestion hôtelière et 3 ans d'expérience pertinente

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**VACANCES D'HIVER
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Le Journal du Pontiac sera fermé du
20 décembre 2023 au 8 janvier 2024.
Notre prochaine édition paraîtra le **17 janvier 2024.**
Date de tombée pour la publicité : 12 janvier à 14 h.

The Pontiac Journal will be closed from
December 20, 2023 to January 8, 2024.

Our next issue will be **January 17, 2024.**

Deadline for advertising is January 12th at 2pm.



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OFFRE D'EMPLOI / JOB OFFER



OCCASION D'EMPLOI OCCASIONNEL

Le **Journal du Pontiac** recherche un journaliste communautaire à temps occasionnel pour **SHAWVILLE** et **FORT-COULONGE**.

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