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 MARKETING MÉDIA WEB

## Chef Annie brings something new to the table

Annie Turmel is fulfilling a lifetime goal with the well-received opening of Chef Annie in Huntingdon.

**EMILY SOUTHWOOD**  
emilysouthwood@gmail.com

**FOOD/CULTURE. Business is booming at Chef Annie in Huntingdon. The new restaurant as well as catering, and Home Chef business opened in Huntingdon, late October of 2017.**

The cozy, welcoming eatery is the dream realization of Valleyfield native, Annie Turmel, a longtime chef who saw an opportunity to run her own business and went for it. With a restaurateur grandmother and aunt, Annie had played with a rolling pin since infancy, but she didn't really catch the bug until she job shadowed a caterer later in life and realized: "This is exactly where I want to be." After studying the culinary arts in Laval, Annie worked as a chef in a daycare for 16 years. Her favorite aspect of the job was that aside from allergies, her director did not set limits on what she could cook. Annie subsequently moved on to managing a large-scale cafeteria, expanding her knowledge of buying in volume and price point, but still never quite felt that she had found her calling. After her uncle did her a favor one day repairing a window, she decided to make dinner for him and his friends in return. Everyone loved the experience and thus Home Chef was born. The gist of Home Chef is to bring a professional chef into your home to cook dinner, clean up, and if you like, shop for paired wines. "Many clients find it ends up being cheaper than a restaurant because we set the menu in advance," she says. "There are no surprises." Annie also likes the aspect of taking time with her clients to sit down and decide on a menu. "It's a lost art," she says. "The time we take with food and the quality family time when we sit down to a homemade meal is very important to me." At Annie's house family dinners happen daily with her partner in business and family, Jamie

Iverson, and their six children. Jamie — who works in every aspect of the business except cooking — concurs, "A TV dinner in our house happens maybe once or twice a year." Customers at Chef Annie in Huntingdon can eat in or take out tasty meals made with quality ingredients. Locally produced oils, mustards, vinegars and the like, which Annie uses in her cooking, are also for sale. Annie and Jaime specifically chose Huntingdon because they felt there was a niche to fill and an opportunity to add something new to discover. "We wanted to create a place where you feel like you are part of the project too," Annie says. "We want to inspire our customers as much as they inspire us. When we saw that 111 Rue Châteauguay was for rent, we just knew it was the spot. Search @ChefAnnie on Facebook for contact info and hours.



Courtesy



Chef Annie at work. Courtesy

EVERY WEEK...

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Haut-Saint-Laurent  
**A Directory for Vacant  
 Rental Units**  
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Producer Kirk Jackson  
**Recovering the beef industry**  
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# Minding my screen time



**EMILY SOUTHWOOD**  
emilysouthwood@gmail.com

I've put a great deal of time and energy into limiting my children's screen time, but recently it dawned on me that I should probably take a minute to think about my own. As a pre Millennial, but Post Gen X-er, I didn't grow up with a cell phone, let alone an iPhone, and when my family rented a movie, it required renting the entire honking VCR.

Another big difference between my mother raising us in the 80's, and me now with endless viewing options, is that when I

plunk my kids down for a little screen time, I tend to sit with them and stare at my own phone. I'm not sure exactly when this became the case. Last year? The one before? Longer? Don't get me wrong, life is busy with texts and emails, and multi-tasking allows me to mother and work. But I'm also spending a generous amount of time talking to myself in this brain loop—Why did you look at your phone again? Ah well, might as well check Instagram, research dog breeds, or fake vacations, or check the forecast, yet again. Perhaps instead, I can retrain my brain to say—Can't remember why you picked up your phone? Put it back down!

# A directory of vacant rental units in the Haut-Saint-Laurent

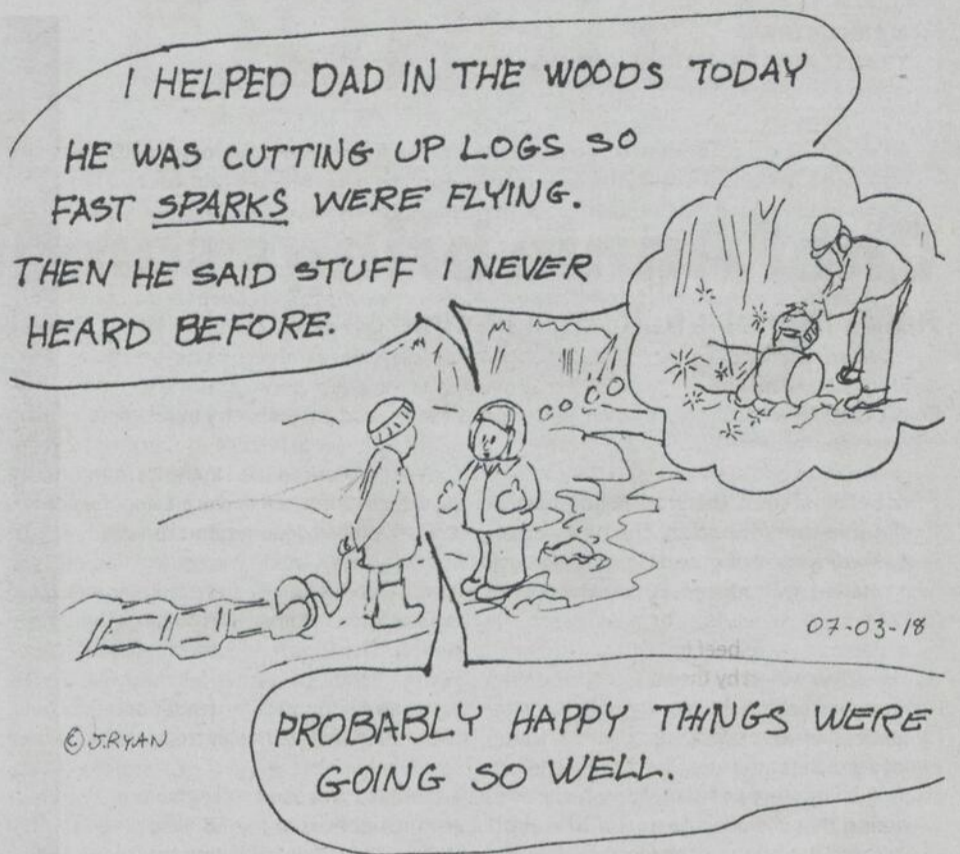
**MARIO PITRE**  
TRANSLATED BY CATHLEEN JOHNSTON  
mpitre@gravitemedia.com

**HOUSING.** Anyone seeking a rental unit in the Haut-Saint-Laurent will now have access to a new directory that lists all housing in the territory including vacancies.

This directory was assembled by the Association pour la Défense des Droits Sociaux (ADDS) in Huntingdon, in collaboration with the Haut-Saint-Laurent MRC whose web site hosts this new directory.

According to Edgar Malboeuf, spokesperson for ADDS Huntingdon, there was no way to identify available housing in the extensive Haut-Saint-Laurent territory. "Citizens and new residents looking for housing had to search street by street in order to find the best offer to meet their needs."

The directory is accessible through a dynamic map to be found on the web site www.mrchsl.com. "We have a directory of some 2 400 dwellings in the territory based on assessment rolls from the municipalities. The map indicates whether a unit is available or occupied," explained Malboeuf.



Lancement : Répertoire des logements vacants du Haut-Saint-Laurent. Une partie du comité : Mélanie Tarif, Rémi Pelletier, Edgar Malboeuf et Yanick Huet. © MRC du Haut-Saint-Laurent

Photo MRC Haut-Saint-Laurent

Directory launch with Mélanie Tarif, Rémi Pelletier, Edgar Malboeuf and Yanick Huet.

The inventory is updated incrementally as units become available. ADDS Huntingdon is calling on landlords with vacant units to be in contact by calling 450-264-6888. "We want people to stay in the area and we want to encourage the arrival of new residents to the Haut-Saint-Laurent," says a press release from ADDS Huntingdon. The committee will also be able to use this data to develop a strategic plan for new affordable and adapted housing projects where they are needed.

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# Push to recover beef industry

MARIO PITRE

TRANSLATED BY CATHLEEN JOHNSTON

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**AGRICULTURE.** The mad cow crisis in the 2000s caused enormous losses among beef producers. Since then, the beef cattle population has fallen to almost half in some areas which has pushed beef producers to attempt a recover of their industry.

A development plan which will be unveiled shortly aims to increase beef production by 50% in Quebec by 2025.

According to Kirk Jackson, President of the Syndicat des producteurs bovins de la Montérégie-Ouest, beef production has reached a critical low because as the volume of production declines, producers have fewer of the resources necessary to remain in operation.

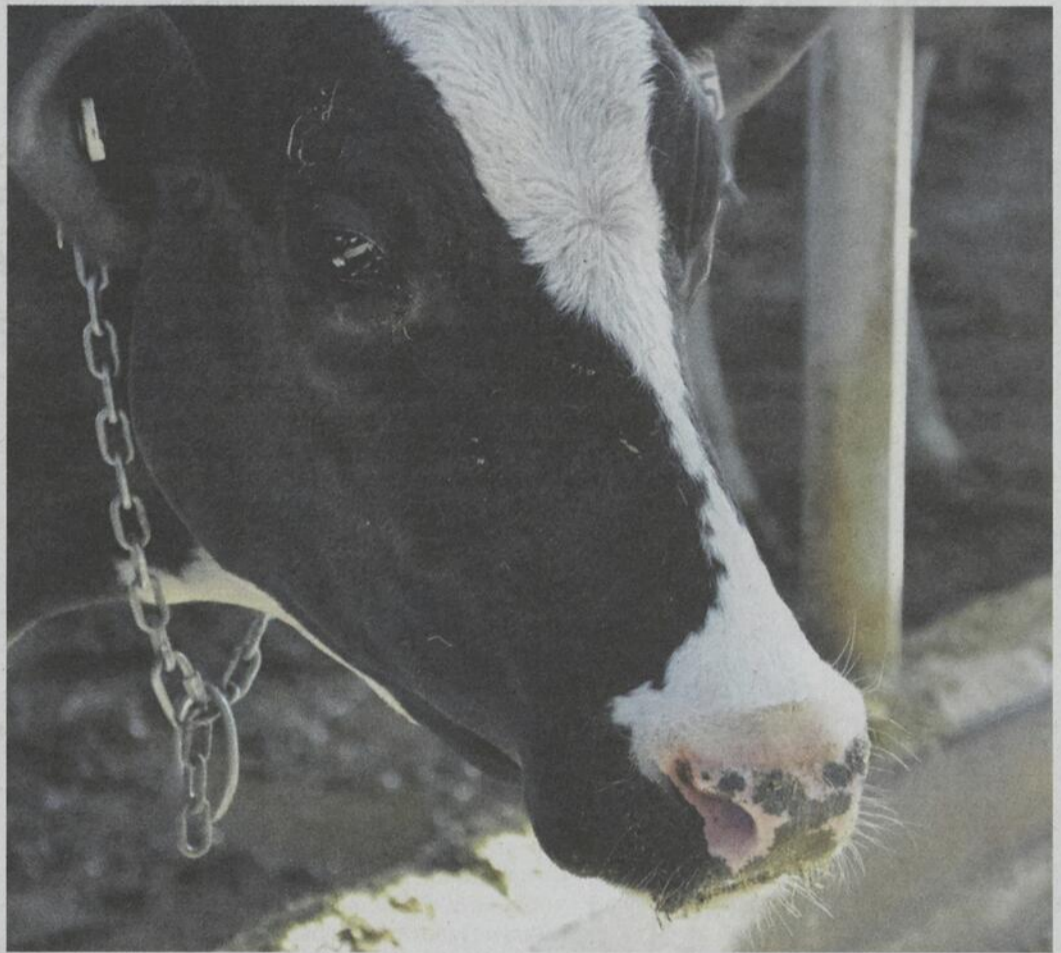
According to data from the UPA, there are about 450 beef producers in the territory of the three Suroît MRCs: 245 in the Haut-Saint-Laurent, 106 in Beauharnois-Salaberry and 91 in Vaudreuil-Soulanges. "That represents a multi-million dollar economic engine for the region," estimated Jackson, a beef producer in Saint-Anicet.

Julien Levac-Joubert, Communications Agent with the Fédération des producteurs bovins du Québec, feels that it is essential to create an environment which favours the expansion of the beef industry particularly in the steer slaughtering sector which was severely affected by the mad cow crisis.

Nevertheless, the Montérégie-Ouest has a varied beef production: feeder calves, feeder steers, milk-fed veal, grain-fed calves or cull cattle which are mainly transformed into ground beef.

For Kirk Jackson, the main challenge in the beef industry involves succession, considering that the average age of beef producers in Quebec is in the 58 year range. According to Jackson, the recovery will inevitably have to include validating the role of producer, improving the conditions for establishment, government measures to support young producers and reducing the regulations to which they are subjected.

Highlighting niche products and promoting local markets are also measures that could help to create new momentum for this industry.



The Suroît region has some 450 beef producers. Photo Journal Saint-François Archives

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## Anne Quach talks about a "timid" Liberal budget which will increase inequality

**POLITICS.** The budget presented on Tuesday, February 27 by the Trudeau government neglects to deal with tax havens for the ultra rich and multinationals and fails to offer any real progress in valuable programs for her constituents, according to Anne Quach, MP for Salaberry-Suroit.

For Quach, this budget, in effect, offers nothing in terms of affordable housing, promoting agriculture or easing student debt.

"Given all the talk from the Liberals about helping the middle class, here is a pretty timid budget that will effectively increase the divide between the super-rich and the rest of us," stated Quach through a press release. "Quebecers are quite right to be asking themselves, 'if the economy is so good, how come I'm not feeling the benefits?'"

While recognizing that measures for pay equity have been long overdue, Quach, as Deputy Critic for Gender Equality, lamented that there was no current or anticipated funding in the Liberal budget for implementing legislative measures on pay equity.

Furthermore, she harshly criticized the Liberals for not dealing with the present housing crisis, as well as their failure to allocate the necessary funds for promoting agricultural producers who have been the currency of free

trade agreements. According to Quach, the Liberals also failed to respond to the urgency of climate change by deferring most of the funding for this issue until after the next election, while continuing to maintain subsidies for oil and gas industries.

"As far as youth is concerned, no new effort is being made to help out young people. I deplore the fact that the Federal Government continues to make hundreds of millions of dollars on the backs of students with these high interest loans," pointed out the NDP Youth Critic. "Hundreds of thousands of young people in Quebec and Canada continue to be under pressure because of student debt and the ever increasing number of precarious jobs. The Government's response remains: get used to the situation, it's not going to change."

The NDP proposed that the Government use this year's budget to abolish tax loop-holes for the super-rich and deal with off shore tax havens and to then invest the billions from clawed back revenue in a proper pharmacare program in order to reduce the cost of medication for all Canadians.

"The Liberals like to make nice speeches, but when it comes time to stand up to the rich and well-connected they don't have the courage to act and make a real difference in people's lives," concluded Quach. (M.P.-C.J.)



Salaberry-Suroit MP, Anne Quach.

Photo courtesy of the Journal Saint-François

### OBITUARY

Monique Racine née Dumouchel  
1933-2018



Passed away in Huntingdon on Friday, February 23, 2018 Monique Racine née Dumouchel aged 84 years. Beloved wife of the late Donald Racine. She leaves to mourn her children Luc (Judith Lussier), Paul (Lysane Cadieux) et Alain, her five grandchildren, Dominic, Gabriel, Mathieu, Daphnée and Xavier, her three great grandchildren, her sister Lise (late André Villeneuve), her sister-in-law Thérèse (late Roch Dumouchel), her brothers-in-law Alex Racine (Pauline), Percy Racine (Fleurette) and Laurier Lapalme (Noëlla) also many relatives and friends. Predeceased by her brothers Gérard, Gilles, Henri and Roch, her sisters Lucie and Gertrude. Visitations will be held at Rodrigue Montpetit & Fils Funeral Home 170 Châteauguay street, Huntingdon on Friday, March 9, 2018 from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 pm also on Saturday, March 10, from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Funeral service will take place at St-Joseph Church, Huntingdon on Saturday, March 10, at 11 am. Burial at St-Joseph Cemetery, Huntingdon, in spring. Donations to Huntingdon County Hospital would be appreciated by the family. Online condolences and tributes may be made at [www.rodriguemontpetitfils.com](http://www.rodriguemontpetitfils.com)

>12483

Rodrigue  
Montpetit et Fils inc.



Paul, Evelyn Beryl  
(McEwen)  
August 26,  
1938-February 27, 2018

We lost our anchor on February 27, 2018. Evelyn Paul passed away at Perth Community Care, our home away from home, surrounded by her loving family. Beloved wife of Rev. Larry Paul. Loved mother of Mary-Lynn Paul (late Frank Watson) of Perth, Margo (Curtis) Wright of Franktown and David (Kealy) of Perth. Cherished grandmother of Connor, Jenna, Rachel and Nathan Wright, Robbie Watson and Elliott and Veda Paul. Dear sister of Joan (late Jack) McDiarmid, Janet McEwan (John Lebrun, the late Marjorie (late Wilson) Kingsley, Margaret (late Jack) Hockney and the late Donald McEwen. Evelyn was a gifted teacher who shared her love of books and reading with many students over her teaching career and with her grandchildren. She was a supportive, loving and kind soul to whomever she encountered. She will be remembered for her quick wit, her sparkling blue eyes and her amazing manner of getting things done. We would like to sincerely thank the staff of PCCC for their kindness and support. Friends may pay their respects at the Blair & Son Funeral Home, 15 Gore St. W. Perth on Friday, March 2nd, 2018 from 5:00 until 8:00 P.M. Funeral service will be held in St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Perth on Saturday at 1:30 P.M. Interment, Dewar's Cemetery, Ashton. In remembrance contributions to Canadian Addison's Society would be appreciated.

12818

BLAIR & SON FUNERAL DIRECTORS  
4712 St. Patrick St. Perth, ON

## February Weather

PETER FINLAYSON

March arrived like a lamb with only spotty snow remaining on the fields, so will it end "like a lion"?

There have been large temperature swings this winter with a colder than normal November, the seventh coldest December in 50 years, a normal January, and now the fifth warmest February. The average temperature for February was minus 3.6 degrees followed by 1984 with minus 3.6; 2017 with minus 3.3; 1974 with minus 1.8; and finally the record warm February set in 1981 with minus 0.4. This reminds me of a story which took place in the late 1920's or early 1930's when a local farmer went out with his horses and plow to plow a field in February – not because he needed to but because he was able to which would be a rare event even today.

Precipitation was normal with a higher

percentage falling as rain. The total was made up of 42 mm (1.7 inches) of rain and 48 cms (19 inches) of snow which melted to an additional 36 mm (1.4 inches) of water and melt it did. There were 24 cms of hard packed snow on the ground in February 14 when the warm weather arrived accompanied by 26 mms of rain in two days leaving only 2 cms of snow on the ground.

Some flooding of low lying areas occurred but were spared much greater flooding when the temperature dropped to minus 6 and stayed there for two days causing the runoff to stabilise at a rate that most water courses were able to handle. This will take a lot of pressure off normal ice break up which is usually March 25.

In the meantime, about 300 Canada geese have arrived on the river and in my pasture field ready to begin harvesting. When I looked back in my records 25 years ago, the geese usually arrived between March 10 to 25.

### THIS AND THAT

CINÉ-CINEMA TO SCREEN THE FILM AVA

Ciné-Cinema will be screening the film Ava, a 2017 French drama directed by Léa Mysius, in its original French version with subtitles in English on Friday, March 16 at 7:30 pm and on Sunday, March 18 at 2 pm. Admission is \$7.00 for adults and \$3.00 for youth, 16 years and under. The film centers on a young girl who is on vacation at the ocean when she learns she is going to lose her sight much faster than anticipated. Her mother reacts to the news by ignoring it, but Ava approaches the problem on her own terms.

ST-PATRICK'S MUSICAL EVENING

The annual St. Patrick's Musical Evening will be held on Saturday, March 17, 2018 at 7:30 pm at the Royal Canadian Legion, on Fairview Road in Huntingdon. A night not to be missed in celebration of all things Irish. The cost will be \$10.00 at the door.

WINTER MARKET IN HUNTINGDON

The second in a series of Winter Markets held by the Huntingdon County Farmers' Market will take place on Sunday, March 11, at the Parish Hall in Huntingdon from 10 am to 4 pm. A selection of the Valley's finest producers and artisans will be on site, with everything you need for celebrating St-Patrick's Day and the arrival of the sugar season.