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# The Gleaner

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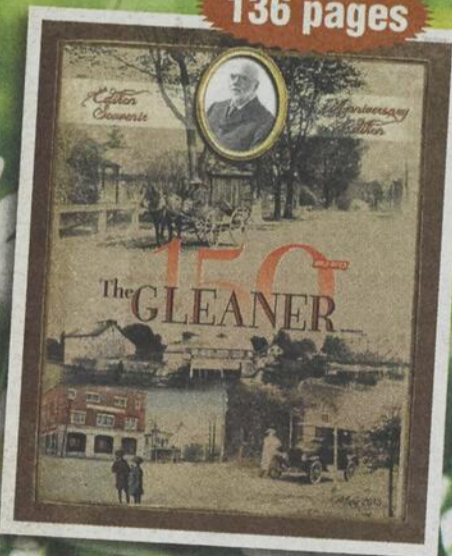
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Huntingdon MNA Stéphane Billette was sworn in as the government whip during a ceremony presided over by the Honourable Pierre Duchesne, the Lieutenant Governor of Quebec, at the National Assembly on Wednesday, April 23.

PHOTO: JEAN-FRANCOIS DESGAGNES, JOURNAL DU QUEBEC - AGENCE QMI

## Stéphane Billette named Chief Whip

**Wikipedia searches in the Huntingdon riding for the title 'Government Whip' must have skyrocketed Wednesday, as local MNA Stéphane Billette was named to Premier Philippe Couillard's cabinet.**

**SARAH RENNIE**  
 sarah.rennie@quebecormedia.com

Mr. Billette, and his customary grin, was sworn in along with 25 other newly elected Liberals named to cabinet during a ceremony Wednesday afternoon in Quebec.

"It's been a hell of a week," said the new Chief Whip on Thursday afternoon, fresh from taking part in his first cabinet meeting. "But a great week," he added, suggesting he was especially happy and honoured to have been entrusted with such an important position by the Premier.

As the campaign manager for Mr. Couillard during the 2013 Liberal leadership race and President of the Liberals

recent election campaign, Mr. Billette has certainly had some practice of late in rallying the troops; however "there will be new challenges now," he is quick to admit. As a go-between for MNAs and ministers, Mr. Billette's position will also keep him in close proximity of Mr. Couillard.

In his new role, Mr. Billette will effectively be in charge of party discipline. The position entails the maintenance of a unified party line. He will be tasked with ensuring a sufficient number of MNAs attend National Assembly and committee sittings, deciding which MNAs will speak at various debates, distributing the workload and allocating support services among the MNAs, and he will also participate in selecting the MNAs who will be part of delegations representing the government in inter-parliamentary relations. Mr. Billette will also sit in on cabinet meetings.

"It's a really great job," he said, noting he is now working on building his team in Quebec. At his side will be Josée

Levesque, who he has named his Director of Cabinet. The two worked together previously during the election when she was named Chief Organizer for the party in 2013.

### Working together

According to Mr. Billette, the key to his new job is simple. "Everyone has to do their job and we have to work together," he said, citing the oft repeated mantra he has relied on, both within the Huntingdon riding and as an election campaign promise. "If we work together, we'll go further," he said, of the conviction he shares with the newly appointed cabinet.

As for his dedication to the people of Huntingdon, "it will be the same as usual. Nothing will change," he insisted.

"My priority when I accepted the job as whip was still the county, and that will always be the same," he said, revealing that following a meeting with Premier Couillard, he would be heading back home to the riding.



# THIS AND THAT IN TOWN

## Open House

Hemmingford Elementary School will be holding an Open House on Wednesday, April 30, from 5 pm to 7 pm. All are invited to come see the bilingual school at its best.

## Dance

The Royal Canadian Legion in Huntingdon will be holding a dance on Saturday, May 3, from 8 pm to midnight. The Blue Moon Duo Band will be supplying the music. All are welcome.

## Help Without Burnout workshops

Les Aidants Naturels du Haut Saint-Laurent will be holding a series of six workshops for people taking care of elderly relatives with a loss of autonomy. The workshops will take place every Tuesday from 1:30 pm to 4 pm, starting on May 13. The location for the training has yet to be determined. The training will be offered in English. The organization is also presently taking names for the next workshop in French. To register, please contact 450-826-1243 or 1-855-826-1243.

## Salvation Army drop-off

A drop off for the Salvation Army will

be held at the Dundee Town Hall on Thursday, May 8, from 9 am to 4 pm. Items that can be dropped off can include clothes, books, toys, dishes, small electrical appliances. Please do not bring televisions or mattresses.

## Garage Sale

A garage sale will take place on Saturday, May 3, from 8 am to 1 pm, at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Huntingdon. All visitors are sure to find something.

## Events at the Little Green Library

Starting on May 2, every Friday from 2 to 4 p.m., the library will be offering individual assistance on how to work with a computer, tablet or e-reader - in English only for the moment; the library seeking a volunteer who could offer this service in French.

The Little Green Library is pleased to announce a new exhibition of paintings and prints by François Belpaire. These works of art will be on sale by silent auction, with all proceeds to be donated to the Little Green Library. Come and meet the artist at the opening on Saturday, May 3, from 2 to 4 p.m.

On Sunday May 4 at 2:00 p.m., Janos Varga will be giving a talk on The experiences of a Novice-Monk in a Buddhist

Monastery (This activity will be in English only).

## VE Day Ceremony

Branch 244 of Hemmingford will conduct a VE Day Ceremony on May 8, at 11 am at the Cenotaph, 486 rue Champlain. School children from both Ecole Saint Romain and Hemmingford Elementary School will be in attendance. Following the VE Day ceremony,

winners at the Provincial level of the Legion Poem, Essay and Poster Contest will be announced. Each will be presented with a medal and cash prize. The 2013 contest saw both schools receiving 8 winners; 3 for 1st prize, 3 for 2nd prize, one for 3rd prize plus one honorable mention. Congratulation and well done to all students. Parents of the children and all of our citizens are very welcome to attend to this very important event.

## EXPO ORMSTOWN

# Getting ready for the big 100

**Despite the fact the Ormstown Fairgrounds are still a little wet from the winter melt, preparations are well underway for the 100th edition of the Fair this coming June.**

**SARAH RENNIE**  
sarah.rennie@quebecormedia.com

At dusk on Wednesday night, a special "Parade of Lights" will wind its way through town and on to the fairgrounds, where it will be received by dignitaries and special guests. The fair will officially open on Thursday with a special edition of the parade.

Rather than choose a single theme for the centennial, the organizers have opted to divide the floats into decades. Once a decade has been assigned, it is up to the creative minds of the design and decorating teams to come up with an idea representing an event, theme or trend from that era. "Hopefully we will have all of the decades represented," says Expo Ormstown President, Loraine Lamb-Lalonde. Unfortunately, the ongoing construction on the Pont du Centenaire in Ormstown will require the usual parade route to be shortened, however it is expected to be one we will not soon forget.

Amid all the excitement brewing for the anniversary edition, the organizers have not forgotten to secure everyone's favorites, including Campbell Amusement's midway, live bands and entertainment under the tents, the Taste of the Valley cafe and the always popular Ag Awareness exhibits. A special edition of the Pig Round-up Thursday night following the parade is set to feature a few new categories, and a special anniversary class in all divisions awarding prizes will be created for the big 100. For example, a special prize will be introduced in the poultry barn for

Chanteclair chickens, a breed developed in Quebec. The annual 4-H show will include a special alumni showmanship class, and fairgoers will be able to enjoy the introduction of miniature chuck wagon racing to the already packed schedule. On Sunday, the grand finale to the 100th edition will feature 100 bagpipers inside the arena, and organizers are hoping to be able to include a few other surprises that day.

"All we need is four days of weather," smiles Lamb-Lalonde, who admits she feels they are due after two years of extreme wet weather. Two years ago, a tornado touched down kilometers away in Godmanchester and last year the parking fields flooded to the extent visitors decked out in rubber boots were bussed from CVR to the fairgrounds.

## Underway now

Preparations for the special 100th anniversary memory book have been completed and all has been sent to the printers in order to be ready for the Fair. The book includes a section on the region's impressive collection of century farms. Organizers wanted to do something special to recognize the farms that have been contributing to the Fair's success from its earliest days. "I was really overwhelmed to find we got 36 participants without really trying," says Lamb-Lalonde, of the level of interest generated by the memory book. Bios on each family farm describe the number of generations as well as the family heritage of each participant. The century farms will also be honoured during the Fair, where organizers are hoping to bring together 100 descendants of the original Board of Directors.


The 2014 edition of the Fair promises to be one for the century - Rain or shine. Passes will go on sale as of May 1.

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# Caisse Desjardins donates \$25,000 for auditorium upgrade

**In the past few weeks alone, the auditorium at Chateauguay Valley Regional High School (CVR) was filled to capacity with Boots, Chaps and Cowboy Hats during Talentfest 2014, and the sweet sounds of this year's New Frontiers elementary school Music Festival. Now, a partnership between the school and the Caisse Desjardins du Haut Saint-Laurent will guarantee next year's performances are even brighter.**

**SARAH RENNIE**

sarah.rennie@quebecormedia.com

On Tuesday, April 22, a cheque for \$25,000 was presented to CVR Principal, Brigitte Barrette, by the Director-General for the Caisse Desjardins du Haut Saint-Laurent, Mr. Yves Leveillé. The funds will be used to upgrade the auditorium light and sound system.

"This important contribution from the Community development Aid Funds was an obvious choice," said Mr. Leveillé. "The renovation of the auditorium at CVR will definitely benefit the students, but equally the community in its entirety," he added, emphasizing the fact that an investment in CVR affects the whole region. The financial support also demonstrates once again the Caisse Desjardins' commitment to the Haut Saint-Laurent community.

"CVR has a great Performing Arts Department and we have amazing talent here so the auditorium is well used," said Principal Barrette, noting the space is booked for several upcoming student performances and activities as well as

community events. She is especially pleased the school will be able to have the work completed by the end of June with plenty of time to spare before CVR plays host in October to the Quebec Leadership Conference and over 400 of the province's most highly motivated teens.

A significant part in the new partnership was played by Mr. Mario Dumas, the Chairman of the Governing Board, who initially approached the Caisse Desjardins about helping to fund the renovation project. "It is a small community and I think it is important that people who are part of this community help out however they can," said Mr. Dumas. "It is really an example of what we can do together, and it is going to make a big difference," he added.

"We have worked with Desjardins on many projects over the years and we look forward to other partnerships with our community," suggested Ms. Barrette. "Collaborative projects like this make us stronger, and we are extremely grateful to the Caisse Desjardins for their investment in our students and in our collective future."

According to Ms. Barrette, the main goal of the renovations is to make the auditorium more user-friendly. The main controls for the light and sound equipment will be combined so the space can be used by anyone with minimal training "with the flick of a switch." This will allow school, private and community organizations to use the auditorium without relying on the availability of a technician. With the upgrade, everything will be easier and faster, and as a result the auditorium will truly become a common place for the extended community.



The Director-General of the Caisse Desjardins du Haut Saint-Laurent, Mr Yves Leveillé, presented a cheque for \$25,000 to CVR Principal, Brigitte Barrette, and Chairman of the Governing Board, Mr. Mario Dumas, on April 22, for renovations to the auditorium light and sound equipment. PHOTO SARAH RENNIE

## LES AIDANTS NATURELS DU HAUT ST-LAURENT OFFERS SPECIALIZED WORKSHOPS



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# OPINIONS



YOUR OPINION INTERESTS US  
SARAH.RENNIE@QUEBECORMEDIA.COM



**Sarah Rennie**

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## A welcome vacation from election fatigue

Election fatigue, or the apathy experienced by voters when called to the polls a few too many times, is a dangerous phenomenon. It is one I sincerely hope the residents of Ormstown manage to resist as they head out on May 4 to elect a new mayor and municipal councillor. A fair turnout for Tuesday night's debate suggests there is interest on the part of residents to learn where the candidates stand on a number of key issues. At the same time, the tone of the audience was unmistakably cynical and frustrated as the candidates were pelted with questions relating to the administration of the municipality and the perceived fumbling of certain infrastructure projects and proposed development plans in recent times. Residents made it clear they wanted a transparent and accountable government, and the candidates were reassuring in their promises to keep a more open policy in place with residents.

Voters in general have reason to be a little on edge these days. It has only been a few weeks since the dirtiest of provincial elections ended and the stains are ubiquitous. At least the transition of power between the Parti Quebecois and the Liberal Party took place peacefully

once Mme. Marois conceded that she would actually have to leave office. With a new cabinet, complete with several shiny faces including Huntingdon MNA Stéphane Billette as the new Government Whip, the Liberals have already set out to create change. That being said, it may not be the kind we were all expecting as words such as austerity, caution and cuts were all part of Mr. Couillard's first address as Premier. We are now learning the books are less in order than we were led to believe and that years of over spending will now be ground to a halt as the Liberals sort out how to best reorient the province without allowing it to slip further behind.

I think we may all be suffering to an extent from election fatigue. At least we have a few short months before the federal political machines really find themselves in full gear. The campaign has already begun of course, so let's just hope the candidates keep their head out of the mud long enough to breathe and remember there are real issues at stake that go far deeper than personal attacks. At least we can rest assured the summer will bring a recess and we can all relapse into a happy non-partisan vacation mode.

As for Ormstown, please remember to vote on May 4.

## FROM THE GLEANER ARCHIVES

120 YEARS AGO

**May 3, 1894**

ORMSTOWN

Cropping is finished in this section. Much of the grain is well up. Reports say that in places frost bite has prevailed, especially in fields of barley, but the long continuance of warm dry weather improves prospects. The planting of potatoes early this year is thought to be a benefit, as by ripening early, they may escape the blight. Pastures are well advanced. Farmers will have cattle out by the 8th May, two weeks earlier than last year. Our roads were good up to Friday, now they are bad owing to the coming out of the frost.

Cattle in general are healthy and in

good condition. Our farmers are stocked with milk cows in keeping with the development of Canadian cheese making. The factories will have the largest supply of milk on record.

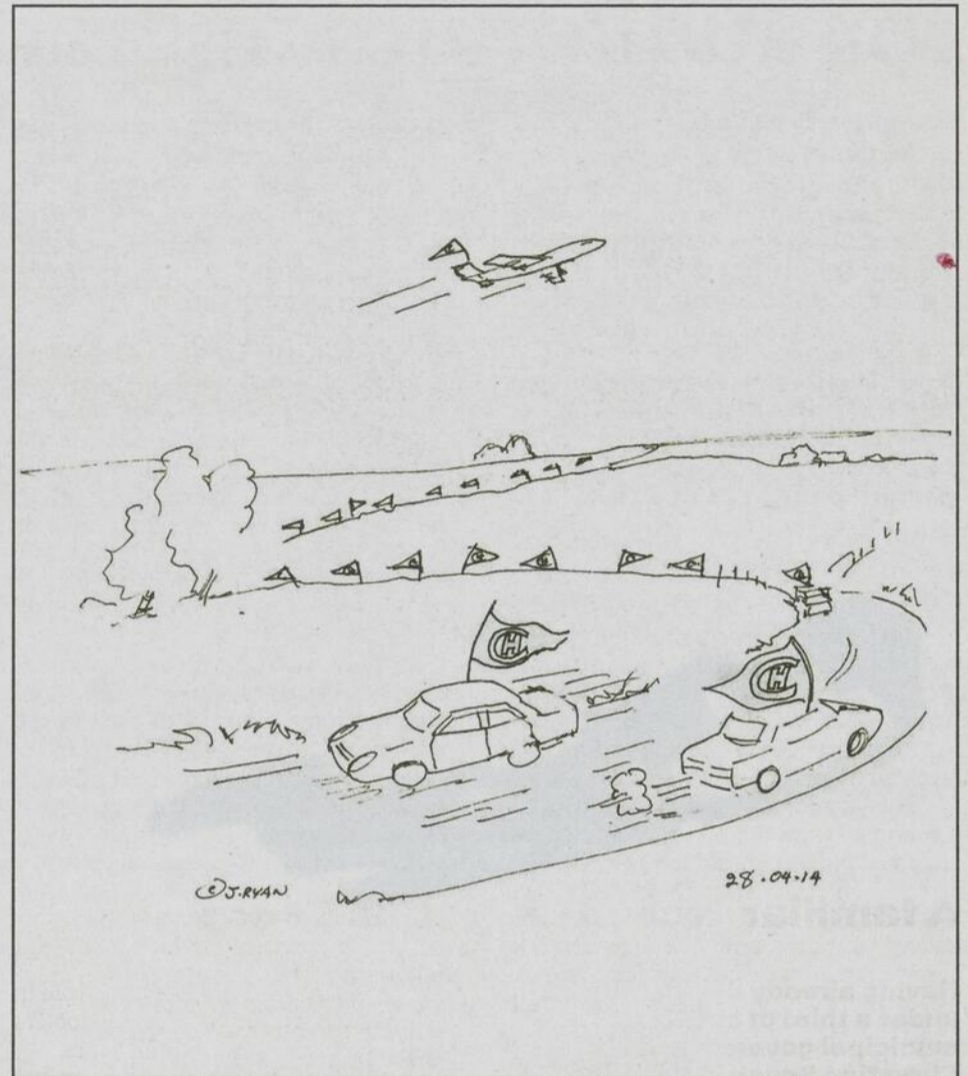
Last week several boys were swimming in the river, a most unusual sight in April.

60 YEARS AGO

**April 28, 1954**

Meeting Being Called To Form Ladies' Auxiliary For Hospital

An appeal is being made for interested ladies to meet at the basement of the Huntingdon County Hospital, on Tuesday afternoon, May 4th, at 3



o'clock, with the purpose of forming a Ladies' Auxiliary for the Hospital.

More than ever before is a great need for a Ladies' Auxiliary for the hospital. With the addition of the new wing, there is more sewing and other work to be done and many pieces of equipment are also needed. A larger number of nurses being employed requires that something be done with regard to their quarters. Once a live Ladies' Auxiliary can be formed, it will soon be found that there are many important things that can be done to help along with the work already being done.

As many ladies as possible therefore, are asked to meet at the Huntingdon County Hospital, on Tuesday afternoon and it is hoped that at the time a Ladies Auxiliary will be formed. Will you make it a point to be present?

30 YEARS AGO

**May 2, 1984**

The Burning Rock Awards

Modeled after the grand success of CVR's Talentfest and the ever-popular award shows on TV, a new addition to the annual Rockburn Spring Festival will feature musical performers from the Chateaugay Valley. The "coveted prize", according to producer Bill Brooks, is the Burning Rock Music Award. He jokingly calls the "Burnies" comparable to the "Grammies".

"Burning Rock" is of course a take-off on the village name but it does not necessarily refer to the type of music to be performed. Four categories are open to contestants including Country-Folk-Traditional, Blues, "Off the wall"-humorous, and Rock. Brooks noted that any performance is welcome as long as it involves some music.

He also stressed that both professionals and amateurs are encouraged to participate. "Age is no barrier either," he said. "The emphasis is definitely on originality and creativity. Technique is obviously an added asset. The audience will be the judge."

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# ORMSTOWN ELECTION

## ORMSTOWN

### Michel Tudino confident in municipal council

**Ormstown native Michel Tudino stepped down from his role as interim mayor of the municipality in mid-February in order to submit his name as a candidate for mayor. With the election fast approaching on May 4, he is as confident as ever that he is the right individual to lead Ormstown as it navigates away from a somewhat scandalous start to the year.**

#### SARAH RENNIE

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"My goal was not to force two elections," admits Tudino, who vacated seat number 1 on the municipal council just prior to making his bid for mayor official.

"I was pretty sure at some point I would put my name in for mayor," he

says, suggesting now was as good a time as any, especially considering the fact he enjoyed working, if for however brief a time, with the recently elected council. He is pleased to say he found a lot of support around the table at Town Hall when he announced he would be running. "I have a lot of support from people who have dealt with town affairs," he concedes, while admitting he is not taking anything for granted.

#### Work left to be done

In considering his decision to run, Mr. Tudino admits he felt there was important work remaining from the previous council that was left to be done in the municipality. He suggests the current council will be working to close some of the larger projects already on the table, including the laying of lines for sewer and aquaducts along Route 201 and the

construction of a water reservoir and filtration system, and that he wants to remain a part of the process.

"I'm from Ormstown. I have it at heart," he says. "I'm not there to waste tax payers money," he notes, before highlighting the fact he would place significant importance on finding a way to accomplish this work in an effective and efficient manner.

"My goal would be to accomplish the big projects on the table and fulfill the promises made to people living on rural roads," says Tudino, admitting a lot of funds in recent years have been dedicated to the village. He maintains that if elected, he will invest in work on rural infrastructure, including culverts and ditches.

Mr. Tudino hopes to see a large turnout on May 4 as Ormstown citizens head to the polls.



Michel Tudino, a native of Ormstown is running for mayor in the May 4 election.

PHOTO SARAH RENNIE

## ORMSTOWN ELECTION

### A familiar face in Chrystian Soucy

**Having already dedicated just under a third of his life to municipal government, Mr. Chrystian Soucy is throwing his hat back in the ring in Ormstown.**

#### SARAH RENNIE

sarah.rennie@quebecormedia.com

With around twenty years of experience with the municipal council, eight of which were spent as mayor, Mr. Soucy was involved with the early years of the Intermunicipal Transit Council of the Haut Saint-Laurent, he initiated the municipal recycling program as well as the library, and was implicated in creating the Municipal Court. He also served as a volunteer fireman with the Ormstown Fire Department for twenty years, and as a member of the Optimist Club.

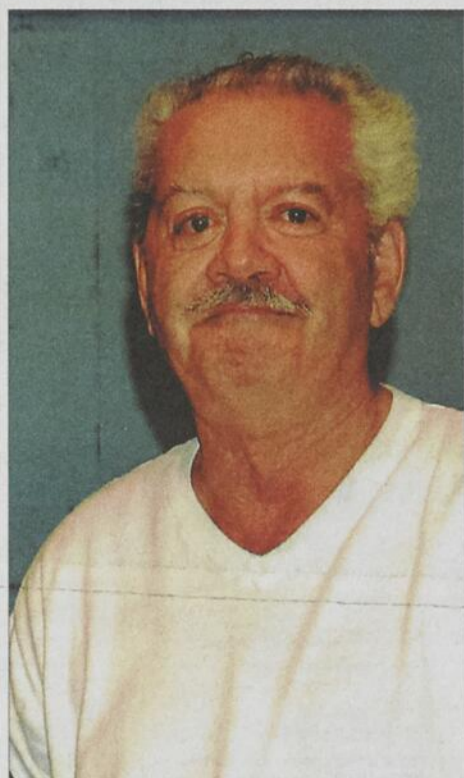
Mr. Soucy decided he would return to politics in order to ensure a continuation of several projects that have been in the works for years. For example, Mr. Soucy suggests he will prioritize certain larger issues such as water and the sewers on Route 201. "For years they have been talking about and it is still not done," he says.

Likewise, the project to renovate or build a new Town Hall. "It's not tenable," he says, acknowledging the current situation is problematic and in need of a solution. "Without a doubt, we need a Town Hall, but at what cost," he asks, before insisting that if elected he will ensure the municipality considers alternatives that fall within its means.

Mr. Soucy is also not shy to admit the rural region has been "neglected for

years," and that it will play a large role in what the municipality will have to look at over the next three-and-a-half years.

"It will be a lot of work, but I am not worried," he says, noting he plans on taking his retirement this summer and will have more time to dedicate to the job. "I love my village. I have always lived here," adds Soucy, while insisting that while not a career politician he is passionate about Ormstown.



Mr. Chrystian Soucy is running for mayor in the Ormstown election on May 4.

PHOTO SARAH RENNIE

## ORMSTOWN ELECTION

### Johanne Roy: standing up for Ormstown

**The focal point for Johanne Roy if elected to the position of mayor of Ormstown will be to develop a culture of transparency. It is something she feels has been missing for some time at Town Hall and that the time has come for good governance axed on ethical behaviour and accountability.**

#### SARAH RENNIE

sarah.rennie@quebecormedia.com

With the goal of regaining citizens' trust, Ms. Roy admits "there is a lot to do." She hopes to start by ensuring residents have access to the Town Hall, receive good service and answers to their questions. She is also concerned residents are not fully aware of the way in which the municipality is managed. With the council's agreement, she hopes to be able to introduce citizens to the inner workings of the municipality, the role played by the mayor and the work done by councillors. She has pledged to hold weekly "walk-in clinics," where people will be able to meet with the mayor to discuss concerns and ask questions. Ms. Roy believes it is imperative residents are better able to communicate with the municipality and will develop new web and mobile platforms to ensure citizens feel they are in touch with their municipality.

As well, within 100 days of the election, she promises to publish an account of the state of Ormstown in 2014. If elected, Ms. Roy will update infrastructure which she suggests has been badly neglected. She plans to introduce a policy on water as well as another focu-

sed on development.

She is passionate about Ormstown, and believes in planning for the long-term, however she is also very aware of the importance of running an administration that works within its means. As such, she promises not to push projects through without consultation. At the same time, she understands the job of a mayor is not to please everyone and that difficult decisions could be in the forecast.



Ms. Johanne Roy is running for the position of mayor in the upcoming election in Ormstown on May 4. PHOTO SARAH RENNIE

## ORMSTOWN ELECTION

# Mayoral candidates meet for debate

**The lack of transparency within the municipality of Ormstown took centre stage Tuesday evening as at least 75 residents met at the Recreation Centre to watch a debate between the three candidates for mayor, Ms. Johanne Roy, Mr. Michel Tudino and Mr. Chrystian Soucy.**

**SARAH RENNIE**

sarah.rennie@quebecormedia.com

The debate, which was more of a forum for discussion, revolved around several key issues, including transparency, access to social services, public transportation and the rural/urban divide.

All three of the candidates believed an increased level of transparency between the municipality and citizens was important, however each would take a different tack in solving the problem. Mr. Soucy insisted he would always be open to meeting and talking openly with citizens. Similarly, Ms. Roy would hold a weekly 'walk-in' style clinic where citizens would be able to ask questions. Mr. Tudino highlighted some of the efforts already underway at the municipality to ensure transparency, but insisted he would also be open to meeting and speaking with citizens.

All agreed on the importance of public transportation, as well as the significance of negotiating for more cost effective alternatives for residents, however the candidates did not share the same outlook on the Intermunicipal Transit Council of the Haut Saint-Laurent (CITHSL). Mr. Soucy and Ms. Roy said they would prefer to negotiate with the CITHSL, while Mr. Tudino added he believed public transportation was important but not at any cost.

The three also agreed the rural/urban divide was a significant issue and that more attention needed to be diverted to those living outside the village. At the same time, there was a consensus that given the level of infrastructure and maintenance required within the urban section of Ormstown, there was a certain level of investment that would need to be sustained. As far as access to social services was concerned, the discussion centered around the significance of the Barrie Memorial Hospital and housing options for young families.

A lively question period concluded the evening, with residents enquiring about several projects and issues, including the abandoned project to construct a new town hall, the possibility of renovating the existing municipal swimming pool versus an indoor facility, as well as the inner workings of the administration of the municipality and the Centennial Bridge. It was clear from the frustrated and at times dissatisfied tone of the audience that whoever takes over the mayor's seat will have their work cut out for them in re-establishing relations with citizens.

Prior to the start of the debate, the five candidates running for seat number 1 on the municipal council were invited to introduce themselves briefly to the audience. Ms. Florence Bérard, Mr. David Adam, Mr. George Eades and Mr. Louis-Bernard Brault were present, and each presented compelling reasons for wanting to join the council. Only Mr. Robert Robidoux chose not to participate.

The municipal election for the position of mayor and councillor number 1 will take place on Sunday, May 4. Voting will take place at the Recreation Centre from 10 am to 8 pm.



The three candidates for mayor in the upcoming municipal election in Ormstown, Mr. Michel Tudino, Ms. Johanne Roy and Mr. Chrystian Soucy, took part in a debate at the Recreation Centre on Tuesday, April 22. PHOTO SARAH RENNIE

## Births and Deaths

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### DIED

**BENOIT, Marcel** – Formerly of Salon Valma in Huntingdon, died in Pompano Beach, Florida on April 11, 2014 at the age of 94 years old. He was the beloved husband of the late Valma Quenneville, father of André (Manon Laurin) and grandfather of Casey and Pierre (Daymas). Predeceased by his son Richard and grandson André Jr. Funeral service was held in Florida. He will be missed.

>H06G82038352

### IN MEMORIAM

**SUTTON, Lloyd** – April 27, 1999  
Remembered always with love.

Vera,  
Lori (Bob Carroll), Nola (Bob Vaincourt)  
& grandchildren

>H06G82039823

**WILSON, Terence Lee** – Suddenly taken from us on April 29, 2013  
You are often thought about and forever missed.

Aunt Dianne, Uncle Allan, Aunt Sheila, Uncle Archie, Uncle Henry, Aunt Sylvia and all your 1st cousins

>H06G82040111

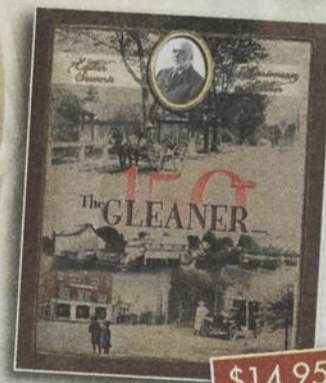
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2014 GALA MÉRITE EN HISTOIRE

# Local students honoured for achievement in history

**The Société nationale des Québécois du Suroit honoured students who had achieved 95% or higher on the Grade 10 history exam during the 12th annual Gala Mérite en histoire, which was held on April 21, in Vaudreuil-Dorion.**

A total of eight students from Chateauguay Valley Regional High School (CVR), and three from Arthur Pigeon High School, were among those presented with a certificate of merit from Madame Lise Dandurand, the President of the Société nationale des Québécois du Suroit. Each student also received a book, entitled "Quebec je me souviens", from Beauharnois-Salaberry MNA, Guy Leclair, or their own representative.

Ten bursaries for \$100 were drawn at random and were presented to the winning students by different sponsors of the event. An address entitled

"L'importance de la connaissance de l'histoire pour les Patriotes de 1837-1838," was also given by Francois Sauvé, a specialist in political ideology. Following the ceremony, all were invited to enjoy a small dinner.

Students were recognized from eleven high school institutions. The scholars from CVR included Coralie Beghuin, Laury-Anne Bolduc, Mélody Bourdon, Émilie-Claude Dubois, Mélodie Labrecque, Camylle Lanteigne, Megan L'Heureux, and Carmen Torre. Of special note, Mélody Bourdon recorded 100% on the exam. Those from Arthur Pigeon included Rose Choinière, Émilie Pilon, and Charlie Turcot.

The history teachers from each of the institutions were also recognized for their role in encouraging their students' success. From CVR, teachers Lisa Evans, Annie Auger and Luc Marquis were thanked, as well as Nicolas Bourdeau, from Arthur Pigeon.



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### Cabinetmakers are veritable wizards with wood

The world of cabinetmaking is centred on well-stocked workshops, machine tools, and the smells of wood and wax. Creative, skilled, and meticulous, cabinetmakers love working with different materials and styles. The various types of wood hide no secrets from these artisans who have the knowledge, artistry, and manual skill to restore old furniture, build custom furniture and cupboards, or even reproduce period pieces.

Cabinetmakers must also master drawing and assembly techniques. In consultation with their clients, these tradespeople define the style of the piece or installation, establish dimensions, and choose the type of wood to be used. Next, they produce a sketch, then a detailed plan of the piece of furniture. They cut all the pieces of wood to the exact dimensions required and assemble the piece, using thin sheets of wood for any decorative motifs. After verifying that all the different pieces are adjusted



Cabinetmaking is a true craft that requires both talent and meticulousness.

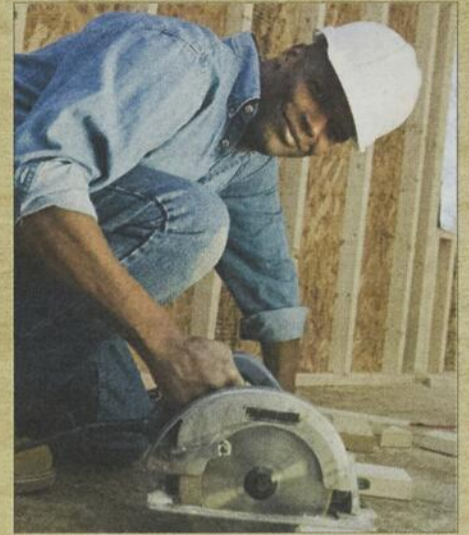
properly, the last phase involves the finishing steps, including sanding, varnishing, or waxing.

Changes in the furnishing sector over the last few years have prompted cabinetmakers to specialize in producing furniture that can fit into existing décors. Current trends embrace simplicity and the use of locally grown wood in order to minimize the impact on the environment. Meticulous and careful, these craftspeople combine manual dexterity and artistic awareness with great finesse. Grandma's old chest of draws is perfectly safe in the hands of a skilled cabinetmaker; his or her technical virtuosity will revive the piece and let it become a treasured family heirloom.

### Carpenters build things right

A new house only begins to take shape when its frame has been built, a building phase that requires meticulous carpentry. As experts in the construction of custom-built frames or factory-built prefabricated homes, skilled carpenters can design and produce other structural elements of a home as well, such as roofs, windows, stairs, and floors.

One of the main attractions of this trade rests in the wide range of jobs available as well as in the use of new, specialized tools that make the work challenging and interesting. These days, being a carpenter could involve handling traditional woodworking tools just as much as it involves using computerized machines. Drawing, sawing, and assembling are just a few of the different aspects of this trade, which is central to all types of construction, including the building of cottages, houses, sheds, and street furniture (such as benches, garbage can frames, and taxi stands). Carpenters renovate heritage homes, work at urban construction sites, and can even be involved with the restoration of historic monuments. Carpenters may also have the opportunity to work with new materi-



The best carpenters are meticulous in their work and have a good sense of esthetics and a keen analytical ability.

als used in their trade, such as glass, aluminum, and metals. Carpentry is far from being boring work!

These specialists know all the different aspects of wood and are proficient in the drawing up and reading of building plans. Knowing how to play with shapes and volumes is another asset for those wanting to become carpenters. The advantage of this trade is that by using an easily manageable raw material such as wood, a single individual can create a piece of work from start to finish. In fact, the secret of being an expert carpenter is to learn to touch and love wood. Old-time carpenters believed that if you loved the material, the material would love you!

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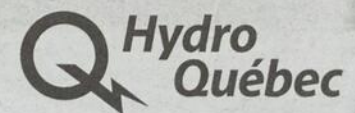
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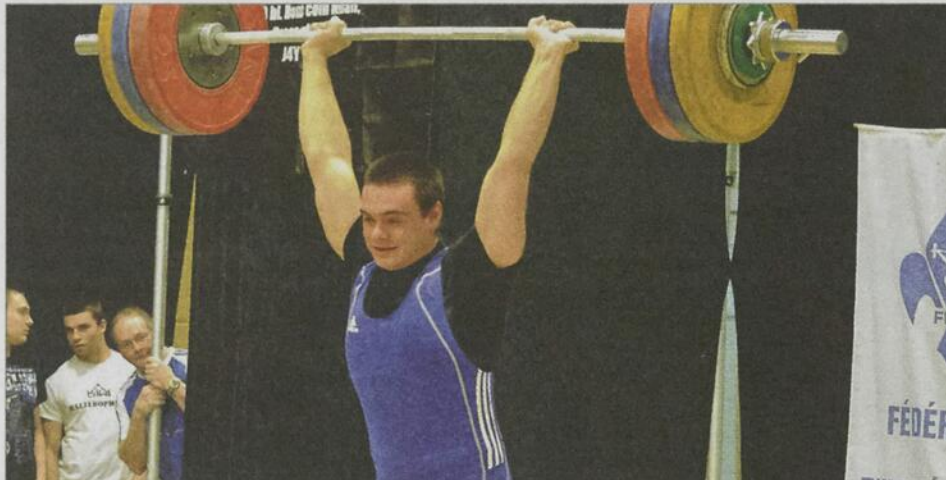
## Weightlifters continue to impress

**A team of weightlifters from Arthur Pigeon High School have continued to defend the school's solid name in the sport with a successful showing on April 12 during the Championnats scolaire d'haltérophilie.**

With six athletes competing in a number of classes, Arthur Pigeon finished in

third place overall out of 27 schools registered for the competition. The team registered two first place performances as well as two fifth place finishes.

In the 85 kilogram category, Gilles Caza turned in a gold medal worthy personal best of 126 kilograms in the snatch and 157 kilograms in the clean and jerk for a total of 283 kilograms. Caza was named the best male athlete at the competition.



Gilles Caza was named the male athlete of the competition at the Championnats scolaire d'haltérophilie on April 12. He finished with a gold medal performance and personal best of 283 kilograms. PHOTO PROVIDED

Oliver Dupuis also finished in first place in the 69 kilogram category with a personal best performance by lifting 104 kilograms in the snatch and 126 kilograms in the clean and jerk.

In the +94 category, Mathieu Castonguay finished in fifth place with a total of 163 kilograms (73-90), and in the 77 kilogram category, Guillaume Raymond also finished in fifth place with

a total of 175 kilograms (75-100).

The team from Arthur Pigeon also debuted two new athletes in Etienne Charbonneau and Simon Bourdeau. Both turned in respectable performances. Charbonneau competed in the 51 kilogram category and finished with a total of 57 kilograms (24-33), and Bourdeau in the 77 kilogram category, where he finished with a total of 82 kilograms (36-46).

## LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

**Climate change : is this really the time to cut public transport**

"The Intermunicipal Transit Council, CIT du Haut-Saint-Laurent, was created by order of the government, in December 1984. It provides a direct and efficient public transit service by bus between Huntingdon and downtown Montreal and the Angrignon metro station" So reads the transportation section of the MRC website. <http://mrchsl.com/en/node/146>

So for almost 30 years the CITHSL has been a mainstay in the Valley. In the past my daughter and I have both written to defend this service. Gleaner readers may recall several years ago that Huntingdon, under a different administration, wanted to discontinue this service. At that time an alternate suggestion was made for a Valleyfield bus. What seemed a monumentally ill-conceived idea, was implemented. At first a large bus and then a smaller bus travelled from points to Valleyfield. This must have cost the company an enormous sum. Whether the cost to the municipalities has risen in part because of this is unclear. What is clear is that the cost has risen and now Huntingdon is dropping out and other municipalities have joined them in considering this option.

On April 12th the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released a report on global warming. The chairperson, Rajendra Pachauri said that "Nobody on this planet is going to be untouched by the impacts of climate change" Is this really the time to be cutting public transit?

Countless students through the years have taken the bus to come home to the Valley on weekends. Some commute daily to work and to school in the city. People with friends in the city or city dwellers with friends in the country have

also used this excellent service. Not to mention older people with doctors' appointments in the city and those who want to take a day to shop. All these people will be forced to find alternate transportation, thereby adding to the greenhouse gas effect.

Perhaps some feel there is a stigma attached to riding the bus. But one need only go to Montreal to see the ridership of the trains and the buses to realize that people from all walks of life use public transportation. This is truly the way of the future and the Valley risks being left behind, becoming more isolated than ever. Public transportation in the city is a given and if the Valley is to attract city dwellers to this area it is essential.

We should be encouraging people to ride the bus more. It's astounding to see how many cars on the road have contain only the driver. But there are many benefits to public transportation besides the ecological ones. Imagine going to the city without having to search for a parking space or paying the exorbitant parking fees. Imagine going to the city and not having to deal with the line ups to the Mercier Bridge or the bumper to bumper traffic on the busy city streets. Imagine not having to deal with rush hour congestion by taking the bus to Angrignon and catching the metro.

You, your parents or your children may not need the bus now, but just imagine not having that option in the future and then please call your elected officials to ensure that bus between the city and the country continues. There has to be another option. As the saying goes "United we stand, divided we fall" and in this case the fall has ramifications for all of us in terms of climate change.

There is an opportunity to show your support at a meeting to be held at 7:30 on Thursday, May 1st at the Howick Town Hall.

Pat Martin, Dewittville

## Centre de santé et de services sociaux du Haut-Saint-Laurent

## Haut-Saint-Laurent Health and Social Services Centre

The Haut-Saint-Laurent Health Social Services Centre (HSSS), comprised of a CLSC (Huntingdon CLSC), a hospital (Barrie Memorial Hospital in Ormstown) and two residential and long-term care centres (Centre d'hébergement du Comté d'Huntingdon and Centre d'hébergement d'Ormstown), is located in the Haut-Saint-Laurent MRC, in the southwestern region of the province. It provides community health and social services to a population of approximately 26,000 residents, 70 percent of which are Francophone, while 30 percent are Anglophone. We wish to fill the following position:

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# Family pets cost homeowner his insurance

**When Tracy Patterson bought and moved onto a hobby farm in Saint-Antoine-Abbé in 2012, he was insured without any problem. Now, after having had his insurance cancelled, he is going public with his story to warn other dog owners of how fast their home insurance can be stripped depending on the breed of their family pet.**

**SARAH RENNIE**

sarah.rennie@quebecormedia.com

In February, he was visited by an inspector from his insurance company and was told his pair of Rottweilers would have to be reported back to the company. After having been informed the worst-case scenario would be that he could lose his insurance, he was provided with a questionnaire to complete that detailed his reasons for owning the dogs and how they were kept. Without thinking much of it, as his dogs are well managed, he completed the questions and sent off the form. Within two weeks, his policy was cancelled.

Frustrated, he sent out applications through his insurance broker to four separate companies, but all were rejected. He turned to the Internet, and began

searching out companies on his own. "I must have spent over 100 hours online. I was going insane," says Patterson, suggesting he was concerned he might lose his dogs. Eventually, he resorted to changing his broker in favour of an Ormstown-based business, which was able to find an insurance company willing to cover his property in a relatively short amount of time.

## A cautionary tale

During his many searches, he stumbled across a number of forums where people were facing similar situations. "I had no idea," he says. "I am far from the road. I am far from neighbours. I don't live in the city. I know the dogs were not representing any danger," he insists, while admitting he is still in shock over the ordeal. "They're part of the family," he says of his dogs. "You should not be put in a situation where you have to choose between insurance and being a pet owner."

Patterson also questions why there was no mention of this policy in the agreement with his insurance company. "I did not see anything about dogs," he insists. According to the Insurance Bureau of Canada, most companies do not ask about dogs, rather it is up to the individual companies to establish their

own policies.

"I just wonder how many people have no idea about this," he says, suggesting the list of dog breeds that can result in the cancellation of a policy is somewhat surprising. The list includes any breed that can technically be classified as a guard dog, so Rottweiler, Doberman, Pit Bull and Mastiff all appear; however more popular breeds are also included such as German Sheppard, Husky and even in some cases Labradors.

Patterson does concede that perhaps one explanation for a reluctance to insure homeowners with certain breeds of dog is that some dog owners choose their pet because of a certain look and not according to its disposition and temperament. If owners are simply not equipped to handle a dog, there might be

a greater risk. "People need to educate themselves on the type of breed they want," he insists, acknowledging he has put a great deal of time and energy into training his pets, and that perhaps all dog owners would not do the same. For Patterson, "owning a dog is a lot more than a pet on 4 legs. Every breed has its own positives and negatives and each one should be weighed out before making that final decision."

"It was a terrible thing to have gone through," he says, suggesting he hopes his cautionary tale may reverberate with home and dog owners who may not have informed their insurance company of their four-legged members of the family. In fact, he advises those considering welcoming a dog into their home speak with their insurers before settling on a breed.

## LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

### Our Bus Service

When there is a catastrophe, all respectable politicians rush to help those in trouble. Here, on the contrary, those elected in Ormstown, Godmanchester and Huntingdon are creating a catastrophe by cutting the bus service, and doing without ever having consulted the citizens to know their needs. Once the catastrophe is over, how can they right the wrongs done?

I have used the bus for 32 years. The CIT was created in 1984. Before that, the STCUM provided transport. Since '84, there has only ever been one cancellation, that of one departure out of two in the afternoon, I think, in '85. All the others were preserved because they were all useful, as Bernard Roy of Dufresne can attest and why would Dufresne wish to operate at a loss? One departure was even added on Sunday evening at the request of Huntingdon in order to take students into the city.

All departures are important. Councillors should, at least, take the trouble to take the bus at different times to find this out - to find out that a bus that leaves Huntingdon with a few passengers arrives at Angrignon full, or nearly so. Furthermore, this same bus will return to Huntingdon a little later with students from Chateauguay, Mercier and Saint Martine who come to study at CVR, not to mention other passengers.

Right now there are a dozen students from Nunavut who are staying in

Montreal and who take the bus to study at the Centre de formation professionnelle de la Chateauguay Valley in Ormstown. There are young people who leave for work in Mercier or Chateauguay or Lasalle, some working part time who may begin work later in the day, anywhere between noon and six o'clock, and who would not wish to leave home at seven in the morning. There are elderly people who need, for varied reasons, to be in the city and who also have no wish to have to leave a seven in the morning, only to return eleven or twelve hours later.

The construction of the Turcot interchange will take place over ten years. What driver wants to be sitting in his car caught in traffic? Many will decide to leave their cars and take the bus to get to town, or choose to sell their houses and move there. Then our small towns will lose taxpayers. Houses will be left empty, as in Huntingdon. And who, living in Montreal, would want to establish themselves in the Riviere aux Outardes Project if there is no public transport? Or be caught in the construction at Turcot? No thank you.

In May there will be an election in Ormstown. Whoever will be elected should be in favour of public transport. And those elected in different towns should talk together. But only after having talked to the citizens to know their real needs - that's the first step.

...and if Huntingdon cuts the service, its citizens will come to take the bus at Ormstown.

Richard Lupien, Ormstown



Tracy Patterson, who owns a hobby farm in Saint-Antoine-Abbe, was shocked to learn his insurance policy was cancelled due to his pair of Rottweilers. He is pictured here with one of his Rottweilers and his pit bull. PHOTO PROVIDED

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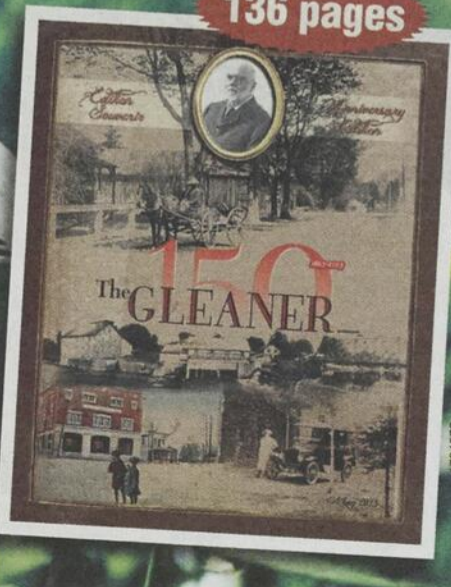
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## du Haut Saint-Laurent

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Le député de Huntingdon, M. Stéphane Billette, a été assermenté à titre de whip du gouvernement au cours d'une cérémonie à l'Assemblée nationale le mercredi 23 Avril. PHOTO: JEAN-FRANCOIS DESGAGNES, JOURNAL DU QUEBEC - AGENCE QMI

## Le député Stéphane Billette nommé whip en chef du gouvernement

**Le nombre de réponses obtenu sur Internet en tapant les mots-clés whip en chef dans la circonscription de Huntingdon a dû exploser mercredi, après la nomination du député Stéphane Billette au sein du cabinet de Philippe Couillard.**

SARAH RENNIE

sarah.rennie@quebecormedia.com

TRADUCTION  
MARIE-JOSÉE BÉTOURNAY

M. Billette a été assermenté avec 25 autres libéraux nouvellement élus qui composent également le conseil des ministres, durant la cérémonie de mercredi après-midi à Québec.

"Ce fut une semaine d'enfer, a lancé le nouveau whip en chef jeudi après-midi. Mais une belle semaine." Le député était spécialement fier et honoré du poste que le premier ministre lui a confié. Organisateur de la campagne électorale de M. Couillard durant la course à la direction du Parti libéral de 2013 et pré-

sident de la dernière campagne électorale provinciale, M. Billette a développé une expertise pour rallier les troupes; toutefois "il y aura de nouveaux défis maintenant" a-t-il admis. Le poste de whip en chef, qui se situe à mi-chemin entre ceux de député et de ministre, obligera M. Billette à garder une certaine proximité avec M. Couillard.

Dans son nouveau rôle, M. Billette devra assurer la discipline au sein du groupe et le maintien d'une ligne de parti unifiée. Il devra s'assurer d'obtenir le quorum à l'Assemblée nationale et lors des séances du comité, choisir quels députés auront le droit de parole lors des débats, distribuer la charge de travail et les services de soutien de l'allocation parmi les confrères en plus de participer à la sélection des élus qui représenteront le gouvernement lors des relations interparlementaires. Stéphane Billette assistera également aux réunions des membres du cabinet. "C'est vraiment un beau poste", a-t-il souligné en précisant qu'il travaille

d'ores et déjà à bâtir l'équipe à Québec. La directrice du cabinet, Josée Lévesque, travaillera à ses côtés. M. Billette et Mme Lévesque ont fait équipe ensemble durant les élections du parti en 2013.

### Travailler ensemble

Selon Stéphane Billette, la clé du succès de son nouveau poste est simple. "Chacun doit accomplir ses tâches et nous devons travailler ensemble", a-t-il affirmé en citant le mantra sur lequel il s'est appuyé au cours de ses mandats dans la circonscription de Huntingdon et lors de sa récente campagne électorale. "Si nous travaillons ensemble, nous irons loin", a-t-il poursuivi en parlant de la conviction qu'il partage avec les membres du nouveau cabinet.

L'homme, dédié à la population de Huntingdon, confie que "ce sera la même chose qu'à l'habitude. Rien ne changera. Ma priorité quand j'ai accepté le poste de whip était toujours les gens de ma circonscription et ça ne changera pas."

# L'école secondaire Régionale Châteauguay Valley reçoit 25 000 \$ pour la mise à niveau de son auditorium

Récemment, l'auditorium de l'école secondaire Régionale Châteauguay Valley (CVR) d'Ormstown était plein à

craquer de bottes, pantalons et chapeaux de cowboys durant le Talentfest 2014. Les jeunes des écoles primaires de la

Commission scolaire New Frontiers s'y sont aussi rassemblés dans le cadre de leur Music Festival. Le partenariat entre l'école et la Caisse Desjardins du Haut-Saint-Laurent assurera la tenue de performances encore plus prestigieuses durant la prochaine année.

**SARAH RENNIE**  
sarah.rennie@quebecormedia.com

**TRADUCTION**  
**MARIE-JOSÉE BÉTOURNAY**

Le mardi 22 avril, la directrice du CVR, Brigitte Barrette, a accepté un chèque de 25 000 \$ du directeur général de la Caisse Desjardins du Haut-Saint-Laurent, Yves Léveillé. Les fonds serviront à l'achat de nouveaux systèmes d'éclairage et de son pour l'auditorium.

"Cette importante contribution du Fonds d'aide au développement du milieu était un choix évident, a dit M. Léveillé. La mise à niveau de l'auditorium du CVR profitera à tous les étudiants, mais également à la communauté entière." Le soutien financier démontre une fois de plus l'engagement de la Caisse Desjardins dans la communauté du Haut-Saint-Laurent.

"CVR a un beau département des arts et nous avons des gens talentueux ici. L'auditorium est utilisé à bon escient", a expliqué Mme Barrette en spécifiant que la salle affiche complet pour la présentation de plusieurs spectacles étudiants, activités et événements régionaux. Elle se réjouit de la fin des travaux prévue en

juin. Ainsi, la direction scolaire bénéficiera suffisamment de temps pour préparer le *Quebec leadership conference* dont l'école sera l'hôte en octobre. Dans le cadre de cet événement, plus de 400 jeunes leaders du Québec feront un arrêt à Ormstown.

Le président du conseil d'établissement du CVR, Mario Dumas, a joué un rôle important dans ce partenariat. L'homme a approché les représentants de la Caisse Desjardins. "C'est une petite communauté et je pense que c'est important que les gens s'entraident les uns les autres, a souligné M. Dumas. C'est un exemple que ce que nous pouvons réaliser ensemble, et ceci fera une grande différence."

"Nous avons travaillé divers projets avec la Caisse Desjardins depuis les dernières années et nous espérons développer d'autres partenariats dans notre communauté, a poursuivi Mme Barrette. Ces projets, comme celui annoncé aujourd'hui, nous rendent plus forts, et nous sommes extrêmement reconnaissants envers la Caisse Desjardins pour son investissement dans le futur des étudiants et de la communauté."

Selon Mme Barrette, les rénovations visent à transformer l'auditorium en un lieu plus convivial encore. Le contrôle des systèmes d'éclairage et de son sera amalgamé. Ceci permettra à l'école, aux organismes privés et communautaires d'utiliser l'auditorium sans même se soucier de la présence d'un technicien. Tout sera plus facile et plus rapide, et l'auditorium deviendra un endroit de rassemblement pour la communauté élargie.

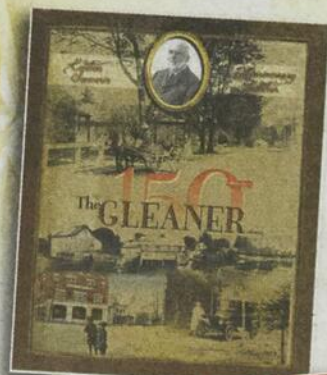


Le directeur général de la Caisse Desjardins du Haut-Saint-Laurent, Yves Léveillé, a présenté un chèque de 25 000 \$ à la directrice de l'école secondaire Régionale Châteauguay Valley, Brigitte Barrette, et au président du conseil d'établissement, Mario Dumas, le 22 avril pour l'achat de nouveaux systèmes d'éclairage et de son pour l'auditorium. PHOTO SARAH RENNIE

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## Le lapin de Pâques à Huntingdon

Le jeune Samuel Desroches était tout emballé après avoir trouvé l'oeuf gagnant lors de la chasse annuelle aux cocos de Pâques du Club optimiste de Huntingdon, qui s'est déroulée sur le terrain de la foire agricole de la municipalité du même nom. Samuel, aussi grand que le lapin en chocolat, a reçu les félicitations du président du Club, M. Denis Roy. Au total, 230 oeufs ont été dispersés sur le site. Le nombre d'heureux est aussi élevé; chaque oeuf renfermant un prix. Le Club optimiste a toujours été présent dans la communauté. Récemment, lors d'une rencontre régulière, les bénévoles ont rendu un vibrant hommage au journaliste du Gleaner/La Source et membre du Club optimiste, Patrice Laflamme, décédé en janvier. La cérémonie s'est déroulée en présence de membres de la famille de M. Laflamme et de collègues de travail. (TRAD. MJB) PHOTO SARAH RENNIE

# 100<sup>e</sup> Expo Ormstown: le décompte est commencé

**Même si les terrains de l'exposition agricole d'Ormstown sont trempés et enneigés, les organisateurs se préparent à la 100<sup>e</sup> foire qui aura lieu du 12 au 15 juin.**

**SARAH RENNIE**

sarah.rennie@quebecormedia.com

**TRADUCTION  
MARIE-JOSÉE BÉTOURNAY**

Cette année, un événement d'exception, qui réunira dignitaires et invités spéciaux, ouvrira les festivités le mercredi soir. Le site de la foire ne sera pas accessible au grand public, mais un défilé de lumières y prendra place durant la soirée.

Jeudi, le traditionnel défilé dans les rues de la municipalité fera peau neuve. Plutôt que d'opter pour un thème unique, les organisateurs ont convenu de relater chaque décennie de l'exposition à travers le défilé. Ainsi, chaque char allégorique sera associé à une période de 10 ans. La couverture de chaque période a été confiée à un groupe de bénévoles différent. "Nous espérons représenter chaque décennie", dit la présidente de l'Expo Ormstown, Lorraine Lamb-Lalonde. Les travaux de réfection du pont du Centenaire à Ormstown obligeront les organisateurs à revoir le trajet du défilé. Malgré tout, les bénévoles affirment que les spectateurs se souviendront longtemps de cet événement.

La 100<sup>e</sup> foire fera place à la nouveauté, mais elle conservera aussi les activités les plus courues sur le site, dont les manèges des Amusements Campbell, les groupes musicaux et le divertissement sous la tente, la salle à manger Les Saveurs de la vallée et la très populaire exposition de sensibilisation à l'agriculture. Chaque division de l'exposition agricole présentera une classe spéciale créée pour le 100<sup>e</sup> anniversaire. Ce sera le cas du poulailler Chanteclair, où un prix y sera décerné pour cette espèce de volaille développée au Québec, et du spectacle annuel des 4-H qui comprendra une classe spéciale des anciens. Le rassemblement de porcs, jeudi soir, présentera également de nouvelles catégories. Les visiteurs seront aussi en mesure d'apprécier des courses de wagons miniatures. Dimanche, la grande finale du 100<sup>e</sup> anniversaire mettra en vedette 100 cornemuses dans l'arène. D'autres surprises devraient s'ajouter durant la journée.

"Tout ce dont nous avons besoin, c'est quatre jours de beau temps", lance en riant Mme Lamb-Lalonde. Elle ajoute que si le soleil et la chaleur se pointent, ce sera mérité. Les deux dernières années, Dame nature a fait des siennes. En 2012, une tornade a balayé la municipalité de Godmanchester. L'année suivante, l'aire de stationnement du site a été inondée, en raison de fortes pluies, à un point tel que les visiteurs ont par-



La 100<sup>e</sup> foire d'Ormstown commencera le jeudi 12 juin, avec le défilé annuel.

PHOTO ARCHIVE

couru la distance séparant la foire et l'école secondaire Régionale Châteauguay Valley (CVR) en autobus.

## Livre 100<sup>e</sup> anniversaire

L'histoire de l'exposition sera soulignée à l'intérieur d'un livre spécial 100<sup>e</sup> anniversaire. L'ouvrage comporte une section sur l'impressionnante collection des fermes centenaires de la région et des biographies des hommes et des femmes derrière ces exploitations. Les organisateurs désiraient ainsi reconnaître la contribution de nombreuses familles de producteurs au succès de la

foire depuis les débuts. "J'ai été vraiment étonnée d'apprendre que nous avons chez nous 36 familles sans même essayer (de faire des recherches)", mentionne la présidente de la foire en parlant de l'intérêt des gens pour le livre souvenir. Les fermes centenaires seront aussi honorées durant la foire alors que les organisateurs souhaitent rassembler 100 descendants du bureau de direction original.

La foire prévue en juin promet d'être l'une des plus mémorables qu'elle se présente sous la pluie ou les rayons ardents du soleil. Les billets seront en vente dès le 1<sup>er</sup> mai.

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# Il perd son assurance habitation en raison de ses chiens

**Lorsque Tracy Patterson est déménagé sur une ferme à Sainte-Antoine-Abbé en 2012, sa compagnie d'assurance lui avait offert toutes les protections nécessaires sans poser de questions. Le cours de l'histoire a changé le jour où il a informé son courtier qu'il était propriétaire de deux chiens de la race Rottweiler.**

**SARAH RENNIE**

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**TRADUCTION  
MARIE-JOSÉE BÉTOURNAY**



Tracy Patterson, propriétaire d'une ferme à Saint-Antoine-Abbé, a été surpris d'apprendre que sa police d'assurance était annulée en raison de ses deux chiens Rottweilers. Il pose ici avec l'un de ses Rottweilers et son Pit Bull. PHOTO COURTOISIE

M. Patterson s'est livré au journal afin d'aviser les propriétaires de chiens de la rapidité avec laquelle une assurance habitation peut leur être retirée, dépendamment de la race de chiens.

En février, M. Patterson a reçu la visite d'un inspecteur l'informant que ses chiens devaient faire l'objet d'un rapport auprès de sa compagnie d'assurance. Dans le cas d'un refus du propriétaire, l'assureur briserait le contrat unissant les deux partis. L'homme a dû remplir un formulaire à l'intérieur duquel il a décrit les raisons pour lesquelles il avait fait l'achat des Rottweilers et la façon dont il

assure leur garde. Convaincu de bien agir avec ses bêtes, M. Patterson a fait ses devoirs. Deux semaines plus tard, sa police d'assurance a été annulée.

Offusqué, l'homme a envoyé une demande d'assurance à quatre autres compagnies; elles lui ont toutes été refusées. Il s'est alors tourné vers Internet. "J'ai passé plus de 100 heures à faire des recherches en ligne. Je devenais fou", explique M. Patterson tout en précisant qu'il était conscient de la possibilité de devoir se départir de ses chiens. Il a donc convenu de confier, à une entreprise d'Ormstown, le mandat de dénicher un courtier pour assurer sa propriété dans un court laps de temps.

## Cas similaires

Le cas de M. Patterson n'est pas isolé. Au cours de ses recherches, Tracy Patterson est tombé sur quelques forums à l'intérieur desquels des personnes étaient aux prises avec un cas similaire. "Je n'avais aucune idée, dit-il. Je demeure loin de la route. Je n'ai aucun voisin. Je n'habite pas en ville. Je sais que les chiens ne représentent aucun danger." L'homme est toujours sous le choc. "Ils (les chiens) font partie de la famille. On ne devrait pas être placé dans une situation où l'on doit choisir entre s'assurer et devenir propriétaire d'animaux domestiques."

M. Patterson se questionne à savoir qu'aucune clause de sa police d'assu-

rance ne faisait mention de ce point. "Je ne vois rien à propos des chiens", insiste-t-il. Selon le Bureau d'assurance du Canada, la majorité des compagnies ne s'informent pas sur la présence ou non d'animaux domestiques chez leurs assurés.

"Je me demande combien de personnes n'ont aucune idée", poursuit M. Patterson en se disant surpris de la longueur de la liste des races de chiens pouvant conduire à l'annulation d'un contrat avec un assureur. La liste comporte toutes les races de chiens de garde, dont Rottweiler, Doberman, Pit Bull et Mastiff. Des races plus populaires, dont Berger allemand, Husky et Labrador s'ajoutent.

M. Patterson pense que la réticence des courtiers à assurer les propriétaires de certaines races de chiens s'explique dans leur comportement. Certaines personnes choisissent leur animal de compagnie en se fiant seulement à son apparence générale et non à son tempérament. Le risque de dommages et de blessures à autrui est plus élevé chez les propriétaires ne disposant pas de l'équipement nécessaire pour garder leurs chiens en sécurité. "Les gens doivent s'informer sur la race de chiens qui les intéresse", mentionne M. Patterson.

"C'est une chose terrible", affirme-t-il en référence à son histoire. L'homme espère que sa mésaventure fera jaser les gens dans les chaumières où habite le meilleur ami de l'homme.

## SPORT SCOLAIRE

### Des adeptes de mini-basket honorés

L'organisation de Mini-basket de la Vallée-des-Tisserands a récompensé ses équipes et entraîneurs les plus méritants de la saison 2013-2014 lors d'un gala à l'école secondaire des Patriotes de Beauharnois le 22 mars dernier.

**MICHEL THIBAUT**

michel.thibault@quebecormedia.com

L'école Jésus-Marie à Beauharnois a été couronnée «meilleure organisation». Les Comètes d'Howick, regroupant des élèves de la 3e à la 6e année, ont obtenu la bannière de la «meilleure éthique sportive». Les Cobras de Melocheville, composés d'élèves de 3e et 4e années, ont reçu la bannière de «l'équipe la plus améliorée». Derrière le banc des Invincibles d'Ormstown, Jessica Gregory a été désignée entraîneur de l'année.

## 250 joueurs

Affilié à la Commission scolaire de la Vallée-des-Tisserands, le Mini-basket fait bouger 250 élèves de 13 écoles primaires depuis 19 ans, souligne Jean-Sébastien Houle, l'un des responsables.



Les Comètes d'Howick, regroupant des élèves de la 3e à la 6e année, ont obtenu la bannière de la «meilleure éthique sportive». PHOTO COURTOISIE

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# D'UN FOYER À L'AUTRE

## Portes Ouvertes

L'école primaire d'Hemmingford tiendra une journée portes ouvertes le mercredi 30 Avril, 17 heures-19 heures. Tous sont invités à venir voir l'école bilingue à son meilleur.

## Soirée dansante

La section de Huntingdon de la Légion royale canadienne tiendra une soirée dansante le samedi 3 mai de 20h à minuit à son local. L'orchestre « Blue Moon Duo Band » fera les frais de la musique. Bienvenue à tous.

## Formation « Aider sans s'épuiser »

Les Aidants Naturels du Haut-St-Laurent vous invite à participer à sa prochaine formation. Il s'agit d'une série de six ateliers s'adressant aux personnes prenant soin de proches âgés en perte d'autonomie. Les rencontres se dérouleront tous les mardis de

13h30 à 16h du 13 mai au 17 mai 2014. Le lieu de la formation reste à déterminer. Formation offerte en anglais. Nous prenons également les noms pour une prochaine formation en français. Pour s'inscrire, il suffit de téléphoner au 450 826-1243 ou au 1 855 826-1243.

## Cérémonie pour souligner le jour de la libération lors de la Deuxième guerre mondiale

La légion royale canadienne de Hemmingford, section 244, organise une cérémonie pour souligner la victoire en Europe lors de la deuxième guerre mondiale. Cet événement aura lieu le jeudi 8 mai à 11h00 au cénotaphe situé au 486, rue Champlain à Hemmingford. Les élèves de l'école Saint-Romain ainsi que ceux de l'école Élémentaire de Hemmingford seront

présents. Après la cérémonie du jour de la libération du 8 mai 2014, les gagnants du niveau provincial du concours de poésie, de rédaction littéraire et d'affiche de la Légion seront annoncés. Les gagnants recevront une médaille et un prix en argent. Les résultats de la compétition de 2013 ont révélé que les deux écoles ont reçu 8 prix : 3 pour la première place, 3 pour la deuxième place et 1 pour la troisième place. En plus une mention d'honneur à été présentée.

## Nouvelles de la Petite Bibliothèque Verte

A partir du 2 mai, tous les vendredis de 14h00 à 16h00, les personnes qui le désirent pourront recevoir de l'aide individuelle pour le travail avec un ordinateur, une tablette ou une liseuse de livres numériques – en Anglais seulement pour le moment; la bibliothèque recherche un(e) bénévole qui pourrait offrir

le service en Français.

Samedi le 3 mai, de 14h00 à 16h00, La Petite Bibliothèque verte est heureuse de lancer une nouvelle exposition de peintures et de gravures de François Belpaire. Ces oeuvres d'art seront vendues par un encan silencieux dont toutes les recettes seront versées à La Petite Bibliothèque verte. Venez et rencontrez l'artiste.

Dimanche le 4 mai à 14h00, présentation en anglais par Janos Varga sur Les expériences d'un moine novice dans un Monastère bouddhiste.

## Point de chute

Un point de chute pour l'Armée Salut aura lieu à l'hôtel de ville de Dundee, le jeudi 8 mai de 9h à 16h. Des vêtements, livres, jouets, vaisselle, et petits appareils électriques peuvent être déposés. S'il vous plaît ne pas apporter les téléviseurs ou les matelas.

## OPÉRATION ANTIDROGUE PROVINCIALE

# Serre démantelée à Hinchinbrooke

Une serre intérieure contenant des plants de cannabis a été démantelée, mercredi dernier, sur le chemin Birch Lane à Hinchinbrooke par les policiers de la Sûreté du Québec de la MRC du Haut-Saint-Laurent.

**DANIEL GRENIER**

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Cette perquisition a été menée dans le cadre d'une opération de démantèlement qui a eu lieu dans plusieurs régions du Québec.

À cet endroit, les agents ont procédé à la saisie d'un peu plus de 250 plants de cannabis et ont procédé à l'arrestation d'un homme âgé de 59 ans en lien avec cette affaire.

Des équipements servant à la production de cannabis ont également été saisis, dont une quinzaine de lampes.

Le suspect, un résidant de

Hinchinbrooke, a été détenu pour sa comparution au palais de justice de Valleyfield. Il est notamment accusé de production de cannabis et de possession de cannabis dans le but d'en faire le trafic.

## Capacités affaiblies par l'alcool

Un homme de 43 ans sera accusé de conduite avec les capacités affaiblies par l'alcool après avoir été arrêté par les policiers sur la route 202 à Godmanchester, durant la nuit du 21 avril.

L'automobiliste a été amené au poste de police de la Sûreté du Québec à Ormstown pour y passer l'alcootest. Les résultats ont démontré qu'il avait plus du double de la limite permise de 80 milligrammes d'alcool par 100 millilitres de sang.

Le résidant de Hinchinbrooke a été libéré moyennant une citation à comparaître au palais de justice de Valleyfield en juin prochain.

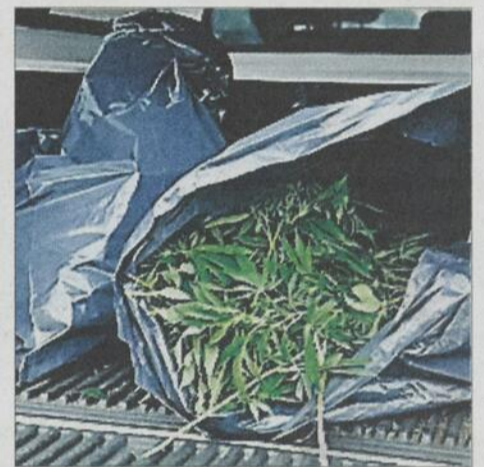
## Vol évalué à plus de 10 000 \$

Un vol par effraction est survenu dans une résidence de la rue Trépanier à Saint-Anicet durant la journée du 18 avril. Un individu a défoncé une porte permettant d'entrer à l'intérieur. Il en a profité pour s'enfuir avec des outils, un téléviseur et une somme d'argent non divulguée par la police. Le montant du vol s'élève à plus de 10 000 \$. Une enquête est en cours.

## Cabanon vidé de son contenu

Un malfaiteur a subtilisé plusieurs articles dans un cabanon localisé à l'arrière d'une maison de la rue Jeanne-d'Arc à Howick.

Après avoir coupé le cadenas de la porte d'entrée, le suspect a fait main basse sur divers outils, des articles de jar-



Plus de 250 plants de cannabis ont été saisis dans une serre à Hinchinbrooke lors d'une opération policière tenue mercredi dernier. PHOTO AGENCE QMI

dinage, un tracteur à gazon et une remorque. Le montant total du vol s'élève à plus de 5000 \$. Personne n'a été arrêté en rapport avec cette histoire.

## Centre de santé et de services sociaux du Haut-Saint-Laurent

Haut-Saint-Laurent Health and Social Services Centre

Le CSSS du Haut-Saint-Laurent, constitué par un CLSC (CLSC Huntingdon), un hôpital (Hôpital Barrie Memorial à Ormstown) et deux CHSLD (Centre d'hébergement du Comité d'Huntingdon et Centre d'hébergement d'Ormstown), est situé sur le territoire de la MRC du Haut-Saint-Laurent, au sud-ouest de la province. Il dispense des services sociaux communautaires et de santé à l'ensemble de la population d'environ 26 000 personnes, dont 70% sont francophones et 30% anglophones. Nous sommes à la recherche de :

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## RECONNAISSANCE MÉRITE EN HISTOIRE

# 11 étudiants honorés pour leur connaissance de l'histoire du Québec

**Lors de la 12e reconnaissance Mérite en histoire, le 21 avril à Vaudreuil-Dorion, la Société nationale des Québécois du Suroît a honoré des étudiants de la 4e secondaire, qui ont réussi avec une note exemplaire de 95 % ou plus l'examen d'histoire du ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport.**

Les étudiants provenaient de 11 institutions d'enseignement du territoire. Coralie Beghuin, Laury-Anne Bolduc, Mélody Bourdon, Émilie-Claude Dubois, Mélodie Labrecque, Camylle Lanteigne, Megan L'Heureux, et Carmen Torre de l'école secondaire Régionale Châteauguay Valley (CVR) d'Orms town ainsi que Rose Choinière, Émilie Pilon, et Charlie Turcot, de l'école Arthur-Pigeon de Huntingdon comptaient parmi les récipiendaires. Mélody Bourdon a réussi l'examen avec une note parfaite.

Chacun s'est vu remettre un certificat de la présidente de la Société, Lise Dandurand, et un exemplaire du livre *Québec, je me souviens* du député de Beauharnois-Salaberry, Guy Leclair.

Au total, 10 bourses de 100 \$, présen-

tées par différents commanditaires, ont fait l'objet d'un tirage au sort. Le spécialiste en idéologie politique, François Sauvé, a également remis aux jeunes la lettre *L'importance de la*

*connaissance de l'histoire pour les Patriotes de 1837-1838*. Un dîner a été servi après la cérémonie.

Les enseignants en histoire du CVR, Lisa Evans, Annie Auger et Luc Marquis,

ainsi que celui de l'école Arthur-Pigeon, Nicolas Bourdeau, ont également été honorés pour leur contribution au succès des étudiants. (TRADUCTION Marie-Josée Bétournay)

## ÉCOLE ARTHUR-PIGEON

## Les haltérophiles impressionnent

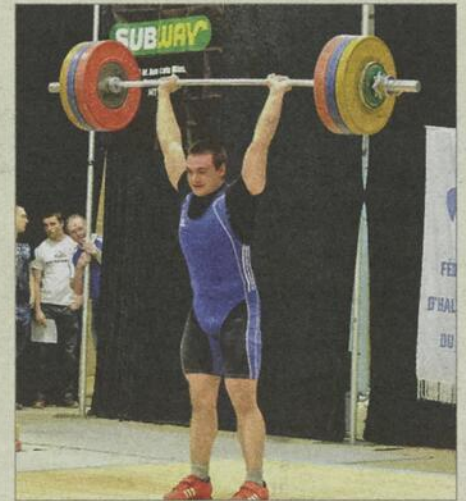
**L'équipe d'haltérophilie de l'école Arthur-Pigeon de Huntingdon a défendu de belle façon la réputation sportive de l'institution le 12 avril lors du 39e Championnat scolaire provincial invitation.**

Avec six athlètes inscrits dans différentes classes, l'école Arthur-Pigeon a terminé 3e sur un total de 27 établissements. Chez les 85 kilos, Gilles Caza a décroché la médaille d'or et enregistré un record personnel de 126 kilos à l'arraché et 157 kilos à l'épaulé-jeté pour un total de 283 kilos. Le jeune Caza a été nommé meilleur athlète masculin de la compétition. Olivier Dupuis a terminé

également au 1<sup>er</sup> rang chez les 69 kilos avec un record personnel de 104 kilos à l'arraché et 126 kilos à l'épaulé-jeté.

Dans la catégorie plus de 94 kilos, Mathieu Castonguay a fini en 5e place avec un total de 163 kilos (73-90). Guillaume Raymond a fait de même chez les 77 kilos avec un total de 175 kilos (75-100).

La relève se prépare à l'école Arthur-Pigeon. Étienne Charbonneau et Simon Bourdeau ont offert une performance appréciable lors du championnat. Le premier a cumulé un total de 57 kilos (24-33), dans la catégorie des 51 kilos, et le second 82 kilos (36-46), chez les 77 kilos. (TRADUCTION Marie-Josée Bétournay)



Gilles Caza a été nommé meilleur athlète masculin de la compétition au 39e Championnat scolaire provincial invitation le 12 avril. Il a remporté la médaille d'or et enregistré un record personnel de 283 kilos. PHOTO COURTOISIE

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Huntingdon	Ste-Clotilde
Orms town	St-Bernard-de-Lacolle



Les trois candidats à la mairie, Michel Tudino, Johanne Roy et Chrystian Soucy, ont participé à un débat au centre récréatif le mardi 22 avril. PHOTO IAN WARD

## Mairie d'Ormstown: débat à trois

**L'absence de transparence dans la municipalité d'Ormstown a occupé le centre de la scène mardi soir alors qu'au moins 75 résidents se sont rassemblés au centre récréatif pour assister au débat entre les candidats à la mairie, Johanne Roy, Michel Tudino et Chrystian Soucy.**

**SARAH RENNIE**

sarah.rennie@quebecormedia.com

**TRADUCTION MARIE-JOSÉE BÉTOURNAY**

Le débat, qui avait davantage les allures d'un forum de discussion, a porté sur divers enjeux, dont la transparence, l'accessibilité aux services sociaux, le transport en commun et la coupure évidente des milieux rural et urbain de la municipalité.

Les trois candidats considèrent important la hausse de la transparence entre la Municipalité et les résidents. Par contre, chacun envisage un moyen différent d'y parvenir. M. Soucy a expliqué qu'il sera toujours ouvert aux discussions avec la population. Mme Roy a abondé dans le même sens en précisant qu'elle prévoira une rencontre hebdomadaire au cours de laquelle les électeurs pourront poser des questions. M. Tudino a parlé des efforts mis en place pour assurer la transparence, mais il a ajouté être à son tour ouvert aux rencontres et aux échanges avec les citoyens.

Tous les candidats s'entendent sur l'importance du maintien du transport en commun et la recherche de solutions plus rentables pour les résidents. Toutefois, les candidats ont partagé une

vision différente du Conseil intermunicipal de transport du Haut-Saint-Laurent (CITHSL). Les trois candidats ont également reconnu l'existence d'une coupure des zones rurale et urbaine du territoire et l'urgence de déployer davantage de services auprès des gens demeurant à l'extérieur du village. Le maintien d'un niveau d'investissement dans la zone urbaine de la municipalité a fait consensus. En ce qui a trait à l'accessibilité des services sociaux, la discussion a été axée sur l'hôpital Barrie Memorial et les options de logement pour les jeunes familles.

La soirée a pris fin avec une période de questions des participants. L'abandon du projet de construction d'un nouvel hôtel de ville, la possibilité de rénover la piscine municipale, le fonctionnement interne de l'administration municipale et le pont du Centenaire ont interpellé les gens. L'insatisfaction de certains participants était frappante lors de la période de questions. Le futur maire aura donc du pain sur la planche pour rétablir les relations avec la population.

Les cinq candidats au poste de conseiller au siège numéro 1 ont été invités à se présenter. Florence Bérard, David Adam, George Eades et Louis-Bernard Brault ont fait état des raisons pour lesquelles ils souhaitent joindre le conseil municipal. Le candidat Robert Robidoux était absent. Les élections municipales en vue de combler les postes de maire et de conseiller au siège numéro 1 se dérouleront le dimanche 4 mai. Les électeurs pourront s'exprimer au centre récréatif de 10 h à 20 h.



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# ÉLECTIONS ORMSTOWN

## Chrystian Soucy souhaite un retour en politique

**Riche d'une longue expérience en politique municipale, Chrystian Soucy se lance dans la course à la mairie d'Ormstown.**

**SARAH RENNIE**

sarah.rennie@quebecormedia.com

**TRADUCTION MARIE-JOSÉE BÉTOURNAY**

M. Soucy a oeuvré 20 ans en politique municipale, dont huit comme maire. Il compte parmi les premiers membres du Conseil intermunicipal de transport du Haut-Saint-Laurent. Il a contribué à la mise sur pied du programme de recyclage municipal, à l'implantation de la bibliothèque d'Ormstown et à la création de la Cour municipale de la MRC du

Haut-Saint-Laurent. Il a aussi porté l'uniforme des pompiers volontaires d'Ormstown pendant 20 ans en plus d'être membre du Club optimiste de l'endroit.

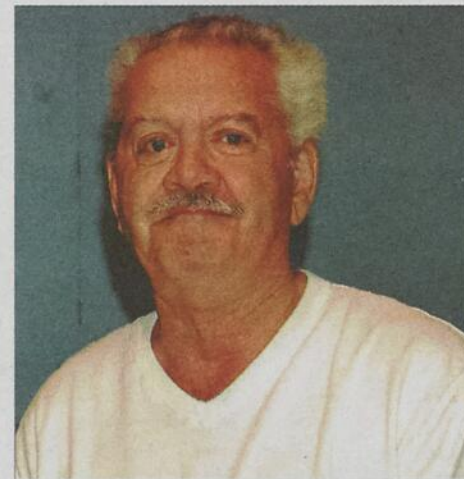
M. Soucy a choisi de faire un retour en politique afin d'assurer une poursuite des projets entamés depuis quelques années. Par exemple, le candidat entend prioriser certains dossiers, dont ceux de l'eau et des égouts sur la route 201. "Ils (les élus) parlent de ces enjeux depuis des années et il n'y a toujours rien de fait", dit-il.

Le projet de rénovation ou de construction d'un nouvel hôtel de ville "n'est pas défendable", affirme-t-il, reconnaissant que la situation est

problématique et qu'une solution doit être envisagée. "Sans aucun doute, nous avons besoin d'un hôtel de ville, mais à quel prix", demande-t-il en précisant que s'il est élu, il s'assurera que les membres du conseil municipal considèrent des alternatives respectant les moyens de payer de la population.

M. Soucy parle sans gêne du secteur rural d'Ormstown qui "est négligé depuis des années" et ajoute qu'il jouera un rôle important dans les orientations que la Municipalité adoptera au cours des trois prochaines années.

"C'est beaucoup de travail, mais je n'ai pas peur", mentionne l'homme qui a l'intention de prendre sa retraite cet été afin



Chrystian Soucy se lance dans la course à la mairie d'Ormstown. PHOTO SARAH RENNIE

### ÉLECTIONS À ORMSTOWN

## Johanne Roy prône la transparence

**Si elle est élue à la mairie d'Ormstown à la suite des élections du 4 mai, la candidate Johanne Roy entend développer une culture d'entreprise axée sur la transparence. Selon elle, cette valeur manque depuis un certain temps à l'hôtel de ville et le temps est venu d'établir une gestion municipale axée sur l'éthique et la responsabilité.**

**SARAH RENNIE**

sarah.rennie@quebecormedia.com

**TRADUCTION MARIE-JOSÉE BÉTOURNAY**

S'amenant avec l'objectif de regagner la confiance de la population, Mme Roy explique qu'"il y a beaucoup de choses à

faire". Elle désire commencer par rendre l'hôtel de ville accessible aux résidents, leur offrir de bons services et trouver des réponses à leurs questions. Elle se sent aussi concernée par le fait que plusieurs résidents ignorent le mode de gestion de la municipalité. Avec le consentement des membres du conseil municipal, elle espère permettre aux résidents de participer au fonctionnement interne de la Municipalité, afin de les initier au rôle du maire et au travail des conseillers entre autres. Mme Roy croit fermement en une amélioration des communications et entend développer de nouvelles plateformes Internet et mobile pour s'assurer un lien direct entre les élus et la communauté.

Dans les 100 premiers jours suivant

son élection, Johanne Roy promet de publier un état de la situation à Ormstown depuis janvier. Si elle est élue, elle mettra à niveau les infrastructures qu'elle considère négligées. Elle prévoit également mettre en place une politique de l'eau et une autre axée sur le développement.

Johanne Roy est passionnée par sa municipalité et elle croit dans la planification de projets bénéfiques à long terme. Elle s'engage à réaliser des projets qui obtiendront l'appui des résidents obtenu à la suite de consultations publiques seulement. Mme Roy reconnaît que le défi d'un maire n'est pas de plaire à tous et que les décisions peuvent parfois s'avérer difficiles.



Johanne Roy est en lice pour le poste de maire aux élections du 4 mai. PHOTO SARAH RENNIE

### COURSE À LA MAIRIE D'ORMSTOWN

## Le candidat Michel Tudino se dit confiant

**Michel Tudino a quitté ses fonctions de maire intérimaire d'Ormstown à la mi-février afin de sauter dans la course à la mairie, en vue des élections le 4 mai. L'homme, originaire d'Ormstown, demeure confiant d'être la personne pour remettre sur les rails la gestion municipale qui a connu un début d'année chaotique.**

**SARAH RENNIE**

sarah.rennie@quebecormedia.com

**TRADUCTION MARIE-JOSÉE BÉTOURNAY**

"En me présentant, mon but n'était pas de forcer deux élections, admet M. Tudino, dont le siège numéro 1 se retrouve vacant depuis le dépôt de sa

mise en candidature. J'étais certain de me présenter comme candidat à la mairie." L'homme ajoute que le moment est bien choisi pour lui. Il aime travailler avec les membres du nouveau conseil municipal même s'il les côtoie depuis quelques semaines seulement. M. Tudino salue les élus pour leur soutien à la suite de sa mise en candidature au poste de maire. "J'ai beaucoup d'appuis de la part de personnes qui connaissent bien les enjeux municipaux", concède-t-il, en précisant ne rien prendre pour acquis.

**Dossiers inachevés**

M. Tudino explique que les dossiers amorcés par l'ancien conseil municipal et à ce jour inachevés constituent un élément important de sa décision.

L'homme souhaite collaborer à la finalité des dossiers en cours.

"Je suis natif d'Ormstown. La municipalité me tient à coeur, avoue-t-il. Je ne suis pas ici pour gaspiller l'argent provenant du compte de taxes des contribuables." Michel Tudino entend accomplir cette tâche avec efficacité et rigueur.

"Mon but est de réaliser les grands projets sur la table et de remplir les promesses formulées envers les résidents en milieu rural", souligne-t-il en précisant que beaucoup d'argent a été consacré à la partie urbaine d'Ormstown. S'il est élu le 4 mai, il investira temps et argent dans les infrastructures, dont les ponceaux et les fossés.



Natif d'Ormstown, Michel Tudino se présente à la mairie en vue des élections le 4 mai. PHOTO SARAH RENNIE

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## LETTRES DE NOS LECTEURS

### Notre transport en commun

Quand il y a une catastrophe, tout politicien respectueux se rend sur les lieux de celle-ci pour soutenir les sinistrés. Ici au contraire, les élus d'Ormstown, Godmanchester et Huntingdon vont créer une catastrophe en coupant le service d'autobus mais cela sans jamais avoir consulté les citoyens pour connaître leurs besoins. Une fois la catastrophe passée, comment pourront-ils dédommager les torts causés.

J'utilise l'autobus depuis trente-deux ans. La CIT a été créée en 84. Avant, c'était le STCUM qui faisait la navette. Depuis 84, il y a eu un départ sur deux l'après-midi (entre 3 et 5 heures) qui a été enlevé, en 85 je crois. Tous les autres ont été conservés. Parce qu'ils sont tous utiles ainsi que monsieur Bernard Roy de la compagnie Dufresne peut le confirmer. Pourquoi une telle compagnie voudrait fonctionner à perte. Même qu'un départ a été ajouté le dimanche soir à la demande même de Huntingdon pour ramener tous ses étudiants en ville.

Tous les départs sont importants. Il faudrait que les élus se donnent au moins la peine de monter à bord des

autobus et cela aux différentes heures pour le constater. Pour constater que l'autobus qui part de Huntingdon même avec peu de passagers, va arriver à Angrignon plein ou presque plein.

Et en plus, ce même autobus va revenir un peu plus tard à Huntingdon avec des étudiants de Châteauguay, Mercier, Sainte Martine qui eux viennent passer la journée au CVR pour leurs études. Sans compter les autres passagers. Il y a maintenant une douzaine d'étudiants du Nunavut, qui établis à Montréal pour leur année d'études, prennent l'autobus pour venir faire leur apprentissage à l'école du Centre de formation professionnelle de la Châteauguay Valley à Ormstown.

Il y a les jeunes qui embarquent sur le marché du travail, et qui vont travailler à Mercier ou à Châteauguay ou à ville Lasalle dans des emplois de service qui sont souvent à temps partiel, (12.00 à 18.00 heures par exemple) qui commencent leur journée de travail tard le matin et qui ne voudraient partir de la maison à sept heures. Il y a toutes les personnes âgées qui se rendent pour différentes raisons en ville qui n'auront aucune envie de devoir partir à sept heures pour revenir onze ou douze heures plus tard.

Et il y aura la construction de l'échangeur Turcot qui va s'échelonner sur une période de dix ans. Quel automobiliste alors voudra être pris dans le trafic assis dans sa voiture. Plusieurs décideront de prendre l'autobus, sinon ils vendront leur maison pour déménager en ville.

Alors, nos petits villages perdront des payeurs de taxes. Les maisons seront à l'abandon comme à Huntingdon. Et qui vivant à Montréal désirerait venir s'établir au projet résidentiel de la Rivière aux Outardes s'il n'y a pas de service de transports en commun. Être pris dans la

construction de l'échangeur Turcot? Non merci!

En mai, il y aura élection à Ormstown. Sera élu/élue celui ou celle qui est en faveur du transport en commun. Les élus des différents villages peuvent bien parler entre eux. Mais après avoir parlé à leur citoyens pour connaître les besoins réels. Ce serait le premier pas à faire.

.....Et si Huntingdon coupait le service, ses citoyens viendraient prendre l'autobus à Ormstown.

Richard Lupien, Ormstown

## Le RSEQ Montérégie dévoile ses ambassadeurs De Facto

**Dans le cadre du programme De Facto, le RSEQ Montérégie a dévoilé ses ambassadeurs 2013-2014. Onze étudiants-athlètes deviennent ainsi les porte-étendards du programme de la lutte au tabagisme. Un étudiant de l'École secondaire Arthur-Pigeon à Huntingdon est parmi les athlètes sélectionnés.**

Le RSEQ Montérégie se distingue avec cette initiative régionale depuis maintenant trois ans. Des affiches promotionnelles ont été distribuées dans les 75 écoles secondaires de la région.

Parmi les écoles participantes au programme, les étudiants-athlètes ont été sélectionnés pour leur leadership et leur éthique de travail dans leurs études et leur sport. De plus, ce sont des jeunes reconnus pour leur dynamisme dans leur milieu.

### Les ambassadeurs De Facto du RSEQ Montérégie

Les onze étudiants-athlètes sont :

Jonathan Hébert (É.S. du Grand-Coteau), Rose Choinière (É.S. Arthur-Pigeon), Émilie Joly (É.S. Pierre-Bédard), Rosalie Roch (Collège Charles-Lemoyne), Caroline Léger (É.S. Antoine-Brossard), Nicolas Desjardins (É.S. Louis-Philippe-Paré), William Sirois (É.S. du Verbe-Divin), Gabrielle Bourgea (É.S. Jean-Jacques-Bertrand), Sabrina Gagnon (É.S. Ozias-Leduc), Justine Perras (É.S. de la Magdeleine), Olivier Martel (Polyvalente Marcel-Landry)

### De Facto

De Facto, la vérité sans filtre, se distingue par ses messages non traditionnels qui révèlent la vérité sur l'industrie du tabac et ses produits plutôt que de pointer la consommation du tabac chez les individus. Cette année, le porte-parole de la campagne a été le célèbre comédien Réal Bossé qu'on a pu voir dans les trois publicités télévisuelles et web.

Pour plus d'informations sur le programme, n'hésitez pas à consulter le site : [www.defacto.ca](http://www.defacto.ca)



Le RSEQ Montérégie a dévoilé ses ambassadeurs 2013-2014. PHOTO COURTOISIE

### PROGRAMME NOURRISSONS LES ENFANTS, PLUS

## Le Club Rotary de Huntingdon remet plus de 10 000 \$ aux jeunes

**Le Club Rotary de Huntingdon a remis récemment plus de 10 000 \$ aux écoles de la région, via son programme Nourrissons les enfants, plus.**

Le programme, mis sur pied par le Club en 2011, se donne comme mission de "combler les besoins en alimentation des enfants dans les écoles de notre région" en procurant aux élèves de milieux défavorisés le contenu d'une boîte à lunch. Ainsi, les jeunes peuvent s'assurer de savourer un dîner complet chaque jour. Le montant du don est fixé en fonction des besoins respectifs de chaque établissement.

Durant l'année scolaire 2013-2014, le Club Rotary a versé 10 900 \$ à huit différentes écoles, soit l'école primaire Ormstown (500 \$), l'école Notre-Dame-de-L'Assomption à Saint-Stanislas-de-Kostka (2000 \$), l'école Notre-Dame-du-Rosaire à Ormstown (500 \$), l'école primaire Héritage à

Huntingdon (500 \$), l'école primaire Howick (500 \$), l'école des Jeunes-Riverains à Saint-Anicet (2400 \$), l'école primaire Franklin (1000 \$), et l'école secondaire Régionale Châteauguay Valley à Ormstown (3500 \$). Dans le passé, l'école Arthur-Pigeon de Huntingdon a également bénéficié du programme du Club.

### Tournoi de golf annuel

Le programme *Nourrissons les enfants, plus* s'autofinance principalement grâce au tournoi de golf annuel du Club. L'année dernière, le tournoi a permis d'amasser plus de 20 000 \$. Des centaines de golfeurs et de membres de la communauté avaient alors fait de cet événement un succès.

Cette année, le tournoi de golf se déroulera le 23 mai au Club de golf Saint-Anicet. Les informations en lien avec l'inscription et le déroulement du tournoi sont accessibles en ligne au [www.rotaryhuntingdon.com](http://www.rotaryhuntingdon.com). (Traduction Marie-Josée Bétournay)



Le président du Club Rotary de Huntingdon, Paul Lapp, a présenté un chèque de 500 \$ à la directrice de l'école primaire Héritage, Lynn L'Espérance Claude. Le Club a versé plus de 10 000 \$ aux écoles de la région dans le cadre de son programme *Nourrissons les enfants, plus*. PHOTO SARAH RENNIE

# POLICE REPORT

## POLICE REPORT

### Greenhouse dismantled in Hinchinbrooke

An indoor greenhouse located on Birch Lane in Hinchinbrooke that was used to grow cannabis plants was dismantled last Wednesday by the Sûreté du Québec's Haut Saint-Laurent detachment. The search was conducted as part of a dismantling operation which took place in several regions across Quebec. Officers proceeded to seize a little more than 250 cannabis plants and arrested a 59-year-old man in connection with the case. Equipment for the

production of cannabis was also seized, including a dozen lamps. The suspect, a Hinchinbrooke resident, was held until his appearance at the Courthouse in Valleyfield. He is accused of producing cannabis and possession of cannabis for the purpose of trafficking.

### Driving under the influence of alcohol

A 43-year-old man will be charged with driving while impaired by alcohol after he was stopped by police on Route 202 in Godmanchester on April 21. The driver was taken to the police station in Ormstown where a Breathalyzer test

was administered. The results showed he had more than twice the legal limit of 80 milligrams of alcohol per 100 millilitres of blood. The man, a resident of Hinchinbrooke, was released on a summons to appear at the courthouse in Valleyfield in June.

### Theft of over \$10,000

A burglary occurred at a residence on Trepanier Street in Saint-Anicet at some point during the day on April 18. An individual smashed through the door to gain entrance to the home. Once inside, the individual made off with tools, a televi-

sion and a sum of money that was not disclosed by the police. The amount of the theft was estimated at more than \$10,000. An investigation is underway.

### Shed emptied of its contents

A thief stole several items from a shed located behind a house on Jeanne-d'Arc Street in Howick. After cutting the lock on the door, the suspect made off with various tools, gardening items, a lawn tractor and a trailer. The total amount of the theft was over \$5,000. No suspects have been arrested in connection with this story.

## Busy start to the year for Ormstown 4-H

**Ormstown 4-H has been very busy so far this year. Two teams of square dancers competed at the Quebec 4-H competition in February. Congratulations to our very own Julie Neal who won best caller. Ormstown 4-H junior square dancers went on to dance at the Huntingdon County Hospital on March 4. The dancing and music was enjoyed by all.**

The club also held 4 barn meetings at Ferme Bri-Mer, Fermes Reyla, Caverhill Farm and Ferme Charlesview, where we continue to build on our judging skills and discuss important and upcoming issues and events. Thank you to all our hosts and guest judges.

On March 7, we had our annual 4-H skating and pizza party at the Huntingdon Arena. There were over 50

skaters from various 4-H Clubs who joined in on the fun. Afterwards, a pizza lunch was enjoyed. A special thank you to the Coop des Frontières for sponsoring the ice time.

The club is excited following the annual Pancake supper fundraiser on March 22, as well as a calf preparation day that is being planned for April 18 at Bryhill Farms, which will be sponsored by the Coop des Frontières and open to members of all Valley clubs. We are also preparing for the 36th annual square dancing competition that we will be hosting on April 12, at the Ormstown Recreation Centre.

The club is preparing for several projects this summer - dairy calves, gardening, crafts, and some small animals as well. We are also in the process of organizing our share of events for the Provincial Rally in July. (Submitted by Caitlin MacDougall and Ella Bryson)

## Spartan Talk with Callan Forrester, Lukas Mikhail and Trenton Blaise

CVR has had a rather dull few weeks in the ways of sports. The bantam girl's rugby team has not had any games yet this year. The midget and juvenile girl's rugby teams have not yet played either. Their first tournament is a 7's tournament is on Sunday at Concordia University. The regular season games start in May. The bantam boy's rugby team had a game last week, but it was cancelled because of the fields flooding. The first rugby game for the midget boys is on the 29th of April. The juvenile boys were supposed to have a game on the 15th and on the 17th of April. Unfortunately, both of those games were cancelled due to the fields flooding, and have not been re-scheduled to date.

They will be competing in the Mauricie RSEQ 7's tournament this May in Trois-Rivières. Track and field has also started to practice the outdoor events, though the indoor events have been practising for a while. The first meet will be held on May 6th. This is a relay meet only. The S.S.I.A.A. Track and field meets will be held on May 13th and 15th. The team looks very promising, and the coaches are expecting the team to do very well. Included this week, there are two pictures of the championship basketball teams, the midget girls and the midget boys. CVR is proud of all the teams who are constantly working hard, and representing the school with pride.



Members of the Ormstown 4-H Club danced at the Huntingdon County Hospital on March 4. PHOTO ORMSTOWN 4-H



## The Easter bunny visits Huntingdon

Young Samuel Desroches was on a chocolate high Easter weekend after he found the winning egg hidden at the Huntingdon Fairgrounds during the annual Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by the Huntingdon Optimist Club. Mr. Denis Roy, the President of the Huntingdon branch of the Club posed with young Samuel, who stood just about as tall as his chocolate rabbit. In all, 230 eggs were hidden at the Huntingdon Fairgrounds, each with a ticket inside corresponding with a special Easter treat. The Optimist Club is and always has been especially present in the area. Recently, the Club honoured former Gleaner - La Source journalist and Optimist Club member, Patrice Laflamme, with a moving speech during a regular meeting. Members of Mr. Laflamme's family were invited as well as his colleagues at the newspaper to take part in the tribute. PHOTO SARAH RENNIE

TALENTFEST 2014

# CVR celebrates down home talent

**It is no secret that CVR is home to many talented students. Singers, musicians, dancers, actors - CVR has it all, and on the 11th and 12th of April, as CVR hosted its annual variety show, Talent Fest, this was once again proven to Valley audiences.**

This year's country themed show, entitled "Boots, Chaps and Cowboy Hats" showcased student talent from grades seven to eleven... and there have even been whispers that this was the best C.V.R. Talent Fest...ever!

The show started off with an opening number featuring several grade ten and eleven students. As in past years, the song and dance opening number reflected the theme of the show, however, this year, organizers switched it up! Rather than using a recorded track, a live band supported a talented ensemble of dancers led by choreographer extraordinaire, Kim Guerin. A live band comprised of guitars, bass guitar, banjo, drums and singers performed a unique rendition of "Wagon Wheel" to the delight of audience members.

The night was hosted by Trenton Blaise and Mark Sample and the comical duo kept the audience laughing all night

long. The evening's witty interjections were drawn from a variety of classic comedic inspirations (including "Saturday Night Live" and "Anchor Man")... and many others were hilarious original pieces. Along with the Emcees, the acts were phenomenal this year. Many different styles of music were covered in the twenty-five acts who graced the stage this year. From country to pop, show tunes to hip hop, this show had something for everyone!

The closing number (also choreographed by Kim Guerin) was an energetic dance number set to the music of "Footloose" and featured the entire cast. The fun, upbeat number was a great way to keep everyone's energy high long after the show was over. The whole cast, dressed in plaid shirts, bandanas and cowboy boots, danced their way to the show's conclusion and the costumes and smiles were a clear reflection of the country-flavoured theme. In the end, the final pose was clear demonstration of how this very special cast came together as a team to produce a spectacular show.

In addition to a hard-working cast, there were many people who worked behind the scenes. A special note of thanks goes to Ms. Jessica Barrette, Ms. Sia Georgaklis, Ms. Lynn Harkness, Ms. Veronique Jodoin (the coordinators of the

event), Ms. Melanie Beaudin (technical director), Ms. Lynn Harper (musical director), Miss Kim Guerin (choreographer), Ms. Anne Marie McCaffrey (artistic design), Kassia Pang and Sara Jacobsen (make-up). Sincere thanks also go out to

the technical crew, the backstage crew and to Mr. Geukjan. All of your hard work and effort are greatly appreciated by both the cast and our audiences and we thank you for helping us produce such a successful show. (Written by Callan Forrester)



CVR celebrated its vast pool of talent on April 11 and 12 with a country themed show that brought audiences to their feet. PHOTO CVR

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