

# Quebec confirms its first Omicron variant case

By Gordon Lambie

Quebec reported its first confirmed case of the Omicron variant of the COVID-19 virus on Monday afternoon. Health Minister Christian Dubé confirmed a single case had been detected but said that 115 other travellers are being monitored in case they also develop symptoms.

Dubé used the announcement to encourage the population to be careful and remember the health restrictions still in place. He also emphasized the fact that there is limited data on Omicron at this point and said that a more careful study of the variant will be carried out over the next two weeks to determine the best course of action.

"It is not yet confirmed that the virus is more vaccine resistant," the health minister said, pointing to this and also information about how transmissible it is as things that need to be better known before the province makes any 'big decisions.'

"While our experts are doing their analyses, we are asking for Quebecers who are travelling internationally to be careful," Dubé said, sharing that despite the focus on Southern African countries in initial reports, he does not believe that there is any country now that could not have a case. "If you don't need to travel, then I wouldn't right now," he said.

The health minister repeated the fact that the majority of those who are contracting the virus in Quebec are unvaccinated, although he added with

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# Venise-en-Québec gearing up for high-speed internet



COURTESY

Jacques Landry, former Mayor of Venise-en-Québec; Raymond Paquette, Mayor of Venise-en-Québec; Benoit Lanciault, CEO, IHR Télécom; Claire Isabelle, MNA for Huntingdon; the Hon. Pascale St-Onge, Brome-Missisquoi M.P., Minister of Sport and Minister responsible for the Economic Development Agency of Canada for the Regions of Quebec.

By Matthew McCully

Streaming, Zooming and downloading is second nature for many Quebecers, but there are still some remote and rural areas that remain off the grid.

Thanks to joint investments from the provincial and federal governments, 855 households in the municipality of Venise-en-Québec will gain access to high-speed internet

service by September 2022.

"We know that access to a reliable and effective network is essential for developing our businesses, teleworking, studying and staying in contact with loved ones," commented Brome-Missisquoi MP Pascale St-Onge in a statement announcing the project funding.

According to St-Onge, Internet connectivity is a priority, contributing to the economic and

social development of communities.

The Government of Canada has allocated billions of dollars to Internet infrastructure in rural and remote regions, including \$2.75 billion as part of the Universal Broadband Fund.

The Quebec government is equally committed to improving service, and has invested \$1.3 billion to accelerate high-speed Internet access for all Quebecers by fall 2022.

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## Weather

TODAY:  
MAINLY CLOUDY

HIGH -3  
LOW -4

WEDNESDAY:  
PERIODS OF  
SNOW

HIGH -2  
LOW -7

THURSDAY:  
PERIODS OF  
RAIN

HIGH 6  
LOW -4

FRIDAY:  
CLOUDY

HIGH -4  
LOW -8

SATURDAY:  
CHANCE OF  
FLURRIES

HIGH -5  
LOW -11

# Time well harvested



## DISHPAN HANDS

### SHEILA QUINN

Last week's DH column delved into the return to the movies for me and my loved ones - and well, I guess like many things these days, once we understand how to navigate new-old experiences, we are more comfortable repeating them.

So, it was back to the movies this weekend with us, and that may be the case for the weeks to come, up to the holidays for sure and probably beyond. Possibly for the same movies more than once as was the case with Ghostbusters: Afterlife (3 viewings for the boyfriend, 2 for me).

This weekend we found ourselves visiting the provincial capital, Quebec City. The German Christmas Market was being held along the streets and squares of old Quebec, the air heavy with the smell of sweets and hot wine, warm pretzels and German sausage. Small wooden pop-open kiosks housed artisans' works, from locally produced and crafted items (Alpaca scarves and hats, wooden kitchen items, a few local alcohol varieties, among many others) to traditional German Christmas ornaments, and impressive massive decorations.

Come Saturday night though, the air was very brisk, and we had seen most that we could see after one evening and most of the day prowling the kiosks and local boutiques and eateries. We headed off to the theatre in Ste-Foy, and guess what the film playing in English was?

Yup, Ghostbusters: Afterlife. Friends who were with us hadn't seen it and we sure had recommended it. My guy and I looked at one another - well, we could go and see it again...but we decided to take a look at what other films were available at the theatre, and among them, starting just five minutes later, was Quebec performer and storyteller Fred Pellerin's debut film, L'Arracheuse de Temps, brought to the

big screen by writers Joanne Arseneau and Johanne Larue, and director Francis Leclerc. We had seen the preview during our viewings of GBA, and had whispered to one another that it looked great.

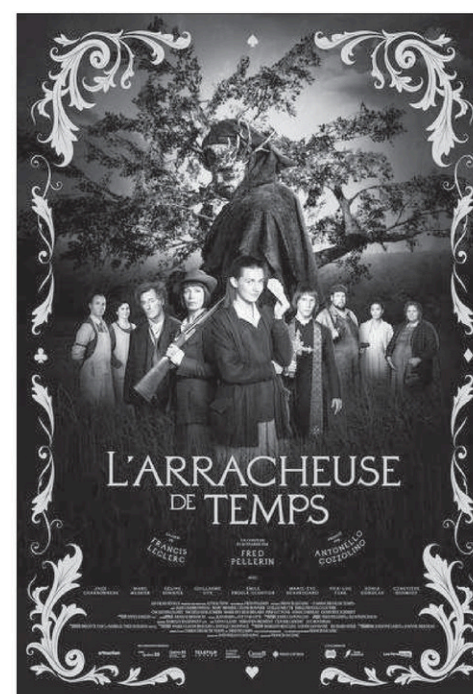
We decided to go separate ways at the cinema - they would view Ghostbusters and we would see this Quebec cinematic effort.

A true Québécois folk tale, blending generations and time, loosely translated as The Time Harvester (although 'reaper' is more appropriate), this maiden voyage onto the big screen is such a rich, satisfying treat. A marriage of Québécois stereotypes, Fred Pellerin's story, as in his performances, certainly captures our hearts and minds, and keeps us on the edge of our seats.

A feast of Québécois small-town archetypes make up the film's characters as Young Fred spends time with his beloved grandmother as she spins a tale from her youth, transporting us from the late 80s to much earlier times in the small town of Saint-Élie-de-Caxton where we meet Bernadette (Fred's grandmother) rounding 20 years-of-age (played by Jade Charbonneau) surrounded by the same folks on the daily - a family with a never-ending stream of children (the Gélinas clan), Toussaint the general store owner and his wife, Méo the drunken barber (Marc Messier, of Lance et Compte fame), the enigmatic and enthusiastic young town priest, the town smithy, and 'the outsider' a woman known as La Stroop (Céline Bonnier), who seems to possess unusual powers.

When Bernadette witnesses the town's prized apple tree struck by lightning late one night, she is surprised by the appearance of a ghostly dark creature who flies into the night. In the period that follows, the Caxtonites (my own word for the townspeople) struggle to respond and deal with strange repercussions (or is that reaper-cussions) that occur following the damage to the tree. In true small-town fashion, they attempt to work together, grow suspicious of one another, talk behind one another's backs and ultimately have no choice but to face some rather imposing music as a fractured community.

L'Arracheuse de Temps is so familiar - and part-way through the film I realized I had passed one of the shooting locations - the cemetery and church-side barely up Garagona road in Frelighsburg, next-door to Camp Garagona. I chuckled to think that my son had been next-door for the



weekend while the cemetery segments were being shot, as I passed the set on my way to collect him following a respite weekend this fall, wondering at the time what production was being put together. My guy commented that the village itself reminded him a great deal of the St-Armand region, and as we always stay until the lights come up, we did read those two towns' names in the filming locations list.

Yes, familiar. Familiar surroundings, but also familiar, small-town Quebec life d'époque, with a smattering of sins (deadly and otherwise), and all of the generosity of soul that Fred Pellerin is known for, perfectly summed up for the screen by Arseneau, Larue and Leclerc.

We are summoned, transported, transfixed, and delivered in one slice of time.

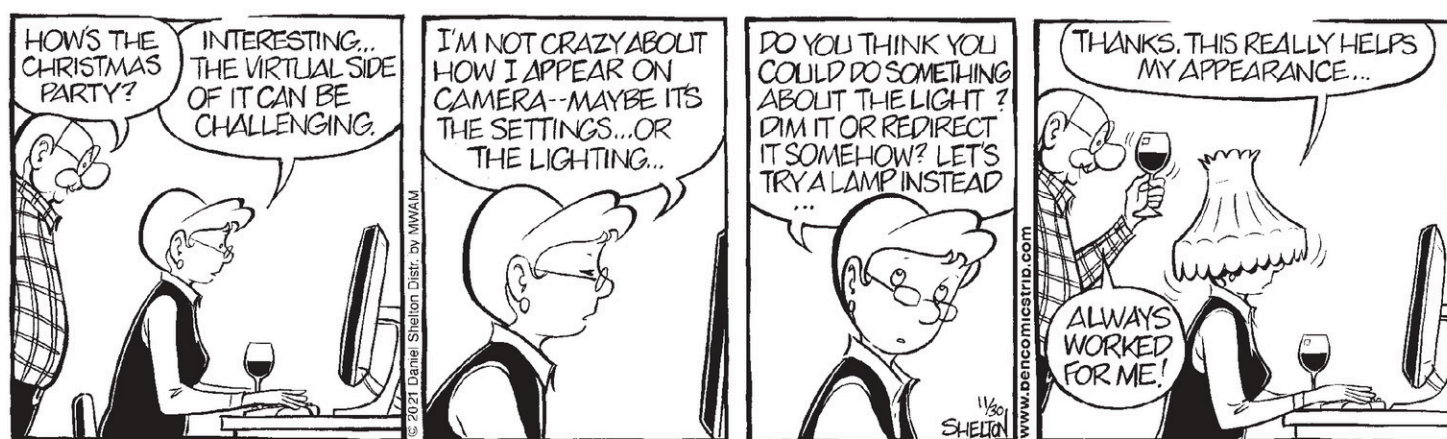
We go home remembering magic, remembering the strange and simple lurkings of our fears and hopes, of curiosity, suspicion and simple generosity and our growth as people, not to mention our treatment of strangers and the fleetingness of almost all things.

A Clerk and A Pilgrim (nudge, nudge - Leclerc et Pellerin) walk into time in the Townships....and what results goes beyond a simple joke...a bony hand reaches for your very soul, and you willingly, happily, give it your heart.

See it. See it on the big screen. Share it, celebrate it.

L'Arracheuse de Temps is a collection of shapes, sounds and colours that enriches, entertains and comforts, all at once.

## Ben by Daniel Shelton



# Local News

*"The name of the region is an important element of our regional identity, and it is necessary to consider such a change with all the rigor that this implies."*

## Health professionals and technicians union agrees in principle to new agreement

Record Staff

The Alliance du personnel professionnel et technique de la santé et des services sociaux (APTS) general council approved a tentative agreement with the Quebec government by over 81 per cent. The next step is recommending its formal adoption at the general assembly.

There are 60,000 members in the APTS across the province, including 4,800 in the Eastern Townships. They'll be informed about the latest collective agreement during several special general meetings, which will be held in the upcoming weeks.

In a press release, Danny Roulx, APTS representative for the Eastern Townships, said it's another positive step towards a new agreement. He

added that the APTS has pushed its limits in an effort to improve the working conditions for healthcare workers and technicians.

"It is a good agreement for the professional and technical personnel in health and social services. That said, the labour needs [...] are enormous and the measures contained in this agreement in principle will not meet them all," said Roulx.

The new collective agreement will give youth centre workers, who work with the clientele, a four per cent bonus. The social workers, and administrative staff, who will receive a three per cent bonus, can convert a portion of their bonus into five floating vacation days per year.

"The addition of floating vacations to allow youth workers to recharge

their batteries following a traumatic event was a long-standing demand of the APTS," said Roulx, adding that it recognizes what workers experience at the Directeur de la protection de la jeunesse.

Mental health professionals and technicians, according to Roulx, will receive a monetary compensation equal to 2.2 per cent of the salary corresponding to the five floating vacation days, if they do not already benefit from the floating vacation days.

The APTS also addressed its members working in medical laboratories and in the field of medical imaging. They lacked access to bonuses introduced during the pandemic, so the APTS obtained \$6.1 million to be given to those who were unfairly left out.

However, the alliance deplored the

government's last-minute decision to remove the 2010 pay equity settlement for the physiotherapy family. Quebec did bend a bit, though, agreeing to provide an additional \$1.9 million to be used by physiotherapists.

But the APTS also made it clear that it intends to continue fighting to recover the equity settlement. President of the Conseil du trésor Sonia LeBel missed a key opportunity to remedy the situation, according to Roulx, and put the complaints behind her, and the government.

"This would have been a true gesture of recognition towards physiotherapists. She will have to bear the brunt of her decision. For our part, we will continue our efforts to resolve this injustice that has gone on for too many years," said Roulx.

## Cookshire lifts boil-water advisory

Record Staff

On Monday the Town of Cookshire-Eaton announced that the boil water advisory that has been in effect for most of the

month of November is now lifted for all residences served by the municipal water system.

In a notice issued by the municipality Monday morning, the town stated that it is no longer

necessary to boil water before consuming it.

The advisory, which came into effect on Nov. 4, was linked to repairs being carried out on the potable water reservoir in The

Cookshire sector. The work was originally expected to last until Dec. 9, but now that it is complete, testing has been carried out on the water to show that it is safe to drink.

## Quebec to hold consultation on the name "Estrée"

Record Staff

Following a request in October from the Table des MRC de l'Estrée, a group representing the leadership of the area's Regional County Municipalities, the Commission municipale du Québec (CMQ) has been given the mandate to organize a public consultation on

whether or not to change the name of the Estrie administrative region to the Cantons-de-l'Est (eastern townships.)

The directive was given by Andrée Laforest The Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and François Bonnardel, the minister of transport and minister responsible for the Estrie region, following the merging of the Brome-Missisquoi and Haute-Yamaska

MRCs into the region earlier this year.

"Our government listens to the elected officials, and this process is proof because it responds to the request of representatives of the Estrie to consider a name change. Currently, the use of the name Estrie is as widespread as that of Cantons-de-l'Est," Bonnardel said. "Obviously, a name change has repercussions on

different levels. This is why it seems essential to us to consult the citizens. The name of the region is an important element of our regional identity, and it is necessary to consider such a change with all the rigor that this implies."

No information is available at this time as to the timeline or format of the consultation.

## Omicron

CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

some hope that 54 per cent of the new cases in the last week have been in children aged 5-11. This is significant because one third of the children in that age group now either have an appointment for a first dose or have received theirs already, with the campaign progressing at a rate of about 20,000 children per day.

Given the uncertainty of the situation Dubé said that it remains important to follow the public health guidelines.

"I know that you are tired of hearing this," he said. "We want to think of this pandemic as being behind us, but it is not."

Dubé and Provincial Public Health Director Dr. Horacio Arruda made a point of highlighting the limit of 10 people for private indoor

gatherings, sharing that a lot of new cases are coming from these sorts of environments. Arruda acknowledged that the limit might seem strange when thousands of people are allowed to gather indoors at sporting venues and concert halls, but he argued that the types of contacts one has at the Bell Centre are not as close or lasting as those which are taking place at home.

Asked about whether the increase in cases and the arrival of the new variant might have an impact on holiday plans, the public health director discouraged people from making elaborate plans before the report on the Omicron variant is released on Dec. 6.

The province of Quebec reported 756 new cases on Monday, bringing the total number of people infected to 447,387 with 7,846 active cases.

There were two new deaths recorded, for a total of 11,576 since the

start of the pandemic.

The number of hospitalizations increased by 10, to 226 with 45 in intensive care.

There were 425 new cases of COVID-19 reported in the Eastern Townships over the weekend, increasing the total number of active cases in the region 1,163, on a par with the highest number of active cases ever reached at one time in the region.

Out of the active case numbers, 389 were in Sherbrooke, 196 were in Des Sources, 164 were in Memphremagog, 122 were in Granit, 86 were in the Haute-Yamaska, 72 were in Coaticook, 57 were in the Val Saint-François, 49 were in the Haut-Saint-François, and 18 were in the Pommeraié. Looked at in relation to their population sizes, the rate of infection was highest in Des Sources, Granit, Coaticook, and Memphremagog.

The number of deaths linked to Covid in the region has now increased to 384.

There were 12 people hospitalized due to the virus in the region in Monday's report, four of whom were in intensive care.

An ongoing outbreak at North Hatley Elementary School led the Eastern Townships School Board to close that school from Monday until at least Wednesday of this week. According to Emmanuelle Gaudet, Director of Complementary Services at the ETSB, several other schools across the territory have begun to apply new control measures, such as the reintroduction of class bubbles, "based on their reality and current COVID situation and whether or not the school is located in a territory that is particularly affected."

# What good are economic forecasts?



DIAN COHEN

One of the first economic forecasts ever recorded is in the Bible, where Joseph forecast that there would be seven years good harvests and then seven years of famine. Acting on that forecast, Egypt stored grain during the good years and survived the famine – and even prospered as people from surrounding lands had to come to buy food.

Today's economic forecasters rely more on data, computer models, and economic theories than divine inspiration although, given the accuracy of their forecasts compared to Joseph's, one might question the change in tactics. Based on a sample of 63 industrial and developing countries, a study by Prakash Loungani at the International Monetary Fund showed that private sector forecasters were only able to

predict two of the 60 recessions that occurred during the sample period. Another researcher collected and analysed 28,000 predictions from 284 experts and found that the average expert's forecasts were only slightly more accurate than random guessing.

Still, we regularly absorb the pronouncements of dozens of thinkers both in and out of government about the where the economy is, where it's going, and various strategies to get there. Why? The answer is that we have an insatiable desire to see what the future might hold. Whether it's the weather, economic cycles or the next election, we listen to experts and talking heads talk about tomorrow because it helps us to feel more in control of our own lives and better able to rationalize the decisions we make.

Since I can't make forecasting of any sort more accurate, I can offer a couple of truths that may help you evaluate your own economic/financial decisions and maybe make better ones.

For starters, you may look at a spreadsheet or an economic forecast, but you'll judge its value based on your unique model of how the world works. Says Morgan Housel in "The Psychology of Money", "People from different generations, raised by different parents who earned different incomes and held different values, in different parts

of the world, born into different economies, experiencing different job markets with different incentives and different degrees of luck, learn very different lessons... In theory people should make investment decisions based on their goals and the characteristics of the investment options available to them at the time. But that's not what people do... people's lifetime investment decisions are heavily anchored to the experiences those investors had in their own generation—especially experiences early in their adult life."

It's a good idea to understand why forecasts are so iffy: millions of decisions made by people on behalf of themselves or their companies create complex interactions, none of which are predictable for any length of time. The farther into the future you venture, the less you can predict. In addition, it's human nature to expect tomorrow to look like today – no one likes change. The unfortunate consequence is that surprise continually overtakes us. The correct lesson to learn from surprises is that they are a constant. It's an amazing irony that we use history as a map of the future when in fact it is the study of how the past has changed. Says Housel, "The most important economic events of the future—things that will move the needle the most—are things that history gives us little to no guide about.

They will be unprecedented events. Their unprecedented nature means we won't be prepared for them, which is part of what makes them so impactful. This is true for both scary events like recessions and wars, and great events like innovation."

All of us have an incomplete view of the world and how it works. But we tell ourselves stories to fill in the gaps. Those stories are shaped by when and where and how we grew up, and they influence the decisions we make. "Wanting to believe that we are in control is an emotional itch that needs to be scratched, rather than an analytical problem to be calculated and solved. The illusion of control is more persuasive than the reality of uncertainty. So we cling to stories about outcomes being in our control."

Dizzying technological change, current social and political upheavals have increased our appetites for prediction. And even when they're wrong, forecasters continue to capture our attention. Why? To answer that, ask yourself why you're likely to pour the forecasts that will bombard us over the next few weeks as 2021 nears its end?

*Dian Cohen is an economist and a founding organizer of the Massawippi Valley Foundation.*

*Cohendian560@gmail.com*

## Feminist solidarities, academic killjoys

12 DAYS OF ACTION TO  
END GENDER-BASED  
VIOLENCE

Nov. 25th - Dec. 6th 2021



Need to talk?  
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Each year the Lennoxville and District Women's Centre takes part in the 12 DAYS OF ACTION TO END GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE. Between Nov. 25 and Dec. 6, The Record will be publishing an article in each issue to raise awareness and shine a light on this critical social problem.

One of the pitfalls of working in academia is its isolation: academics often work alone, in offices, or libraries, or archives, where they conduct their research. I am, however, an inherently social creature, and so it means that I seek out other colleagues with whom to collaborate and, at times, commiserate. It turns out that there is still much work to do at the academic level in terms of gender equity and gender violence, and so our conversations often turn to this subject and to how we might build solidarity among us.

Building solidarity has become an essential practice, not just a

theoretical enterprise, whereby I have learned to work with others—colleagues and students alike—who have been committed to the same sense of justice and ethics. When I was hired at Bishop's University in 2007, I began to translate these ideas in the classroom, calling upon theories that informed our reading of literary texts—and our daily lives. This is, therefore, what I see as the first part of my responsibility, commitment, and expression of solidarity: it shapes what I teach in the classroom, what I think my students will need to be properly equipped to navigate the world.

It is no surprise, then, that as a professor of Canadian and Indigenous literatures, and of gender and sexuality studies, I become aware of instances of gender-based violence on campus. Indeed, I remember having supported a self-identified female student on campus who ran what she titled the No Means KNOW campaign in conjunction with the

University Equity Centre to educate and enlighten peers and to demand the implementation of a policy on sexual assault on campus. I spoke at an event she spent months planning, with a lecture addressing the statistics about sexual assault across Canada.

That was in 2014.

In 2014, no such institutional policy existed.

It does exist now.

As a professor of gender studies, I also see my role as vital in supporting student-based initiatives and listening, as the cultural theorist Sara Ahmed would say, with "feminist ears" to the calls for change and action, and operating as "feminist killjoys." Such listening is an important step in expressing solidarity—but it is not enough. Heeding these calls to action must then translate into substantial, meaningful change for the exercise of "listening" to be more than just that—more than just a moment when one appears to be listening, but then does not respond in direct cooperation with those making the calls. As a feminist, I also believe in engaging in acts of solidarity, especially with my students who may be vulnerable for particular reasons.

Building responsible relationships with others in this process is therefore crucial. Scholar Erin Wunker speaks to the importance of friendship between feminist killjoys, since the process of fighting

against patriarchal structures can't be done alone: "She needs friends. She needs a support network. She needs allies. She needs respite from the work of killing joy and making a world." Building solidarities with other feminist killjoys means we continue to fight to change systems that do not work, that may even appear to resist change; that we show support, especially for those who have been directly affected or engaged in such work; that we support those who have been victims of such systems and violence; that we ask them what they need and work cooperatively with them; and that we do not settle for less.

It took approximately 100 years for women to gain the right to vote. It was not a single woman who accomplished that task. It was not done in isolation, but rather in solidarity, by forging multiple alliances and networks. We may have new battles and battlegrounds, but the practice for resisting and implementing change remains the same: working with and alongside others whose needs and rights are, I believe, an integral part of our responsibility, as Ahmed would argue, as feminist killjoys.

By Linda Morra

# #NewsMatters: The National Assembly report

By Raquel Fletcher

## Liberal leader slams

### “historic anglophones” reference

Quebec Liberal Party leader Dominique Anglade is trying to distinguish her party from the governing Coalition Avenir Québec on at least two fronts – anglophones and climate change.

During the Liberal’s policy convention this past weekend in Quebec City, Anglade slammed Premier François Legault for his reference to “historic anglophones,” in a speech last month to open a new session of the National Assembly. Many anglophones find the term offensive.

“I have a message for him and to all English-speaking Quebecers,” Anglade said during her address to party members Friday night at the convention.

“I hear your concern and, yes, your suspicion, when you witness the Premier choosing the word ‘historic’ to describe your place here. Let him

understand, here, now and always: You are Quebecers,” she said.

However, Westmount-St. Louis MNA, Jennifer Maccarone said she recognizes the Liberal Party has its own work to do to win back the esteem of English speakers.

“I hear that people feel that we haven’t been there, and that is absolutely something that we need to address,” she said.

The Liberal Party supports the government’s controversial French language reform, Bill 96, but MNAs insisted they are fighting for amendments to protect the rights of Anglophones.

## \$100 billion climate change plan

Seeking to redefine the Liberal Party heading into next year’s provincial election, Anglade promised a \$100 billion plan to combat climate change if her party wins back power.

Project Eco would nationalize green hydrogen production, a clean fossil fuel alternative that can be used where

hydroelectricity cannot, such as to fuel ships and planes. Anglade wants to make the environment the party’s top priority while setting it apart from political rivals.

“There’s no question that we had to make a decision about where the party is going,” Anglade said. “I’ve been saying all along that the biggest challenge we have is the challenge of climate change.”

The Liberals suffered an historic loss of seats in the 2018 provincial election and Quebec Solidaire is currently polling higher among francophones. However, Liberals brushed off the suggestion the party is moving towards the left to draw voters away from the second opposition.

“We are much more pro-business,” said MNA Pierre Arcand.

## CAQ not doing enough on environment: Liberals

At the same time, the Liberals criticized the CAQ for being too focused on the economy and not including any

money to fight climate change in its economic update unveiled last week.

Finance Minister Eric Girard announced \$11 billion in new spending over the next five years, including a special rising cost of living allowance for low and middle-income wage earners, who will receive a cheque for \$275 (\$400 for a couple) in the new year.

In the past, Legault has responded to criticism he is not doing enough for the environment by expressing his desire to export more hydroelectricity to neighbouring states and provinces and make Quebec the “battery of North America.” The government has also talked about producing green hydrogen, but has yet to invest major sums of money.

*The National Assembly Report is a column produced by Raquel Fletcher, Global News’ National Assembly reporter, through the Quebec Community Newspapers Association’s #NewsMatters project. Raquel will be writing about National Assembly issues every week.*

# Ten things to know about charity giving

By Dian Cohen

Canadian consumer spending on Black Friday and Cyber Monday grew significantly – maybe as much as 15 per cent compared to last year, according to new data from card processor Moneris Solutions. Black Friday is the day after the US Thanksgiving holiday and is traditionally the start of the holiday shopping season. It’s not quite the same chaotic shopping day here as it is in the United States, but it’s become a tradition since the mid-2000s. According to the Retail Council of Canada, more Canadians take advantage of deals at this time of year than on Boxing Day. Moneris Solutions Marketing and Communications VP, Santo Ligotti says: “Black Friday and Cyber Monday were a great success for merchants on this side of the border. If these two shopping days are any indication of how Canadians will be spending this holiday season, then we can likely expect overall positive results in December.”

Another American marketing innovation that has caught on big in Canada is Giving Tuesday. Today, It started about nine years ago when a couple of Americans decided that people should have a chance to demonstrate their compassion for others by doing something good after indulging in the consumerism and self-interest of Black Friday and Cyber Monday. Hence the first Tuesday after Black Friday – now promoted in at least 75 countries around the world.

Doing good is a short way of saying “doing good deeds,” “doing things that are good for others,” and “performing actions that benefit people other than oneself.” There’s always a need: In Canada, a couple is considered poor if they live on less than \$16,449 a year. If they have two children and live on less than \$24,500, they’re poor. Almost four million Canadians, or 10 per cent of the population is poor.

There are 86,000 charities in Canada – not all of them ask for money on Giving Tuesday, and not all deserve your support. Charitydata.ca provides information on registered charities as disclosed by those charities in their T3010 annual return. It will tell you what percentage of the money you donate actually goes to the cause. Canadiancharitylaw.ca provides accessible, plain language and free legal, ethical and practical information about a charity’s obligations. The Charities Directorate of the CRA www.canada.ca will tell you whether a charity is registered.

According to CharityIntelligence.ca, “over \$17 billion was given to charities by Canadian donors last year and a significant portion of that is going to less-effective charities. Based on our work, up to 40 per cent of donations may be wasted by donors giving based solely on the reputation of the charity or by getting distracted by salaries or administrative costs.”

The not-for-profit sector contributes about \$169 billion – close to 10 per cent of the value of all goods and services produced in Canada. Charities also employ about 10 per cent of the population. Despite creating all these jobs, most Canadian charities are small, taking in less than \$500,000 a year, employing fewer than 10 employees. Fully 58 per cent are entirely managed by volunteers. By and large, small charities spend less on administrative and fundraising expenses, leaving more to go to their beneficiaries.

An April 2021 survey done by the Association of Fundraising Professionals found that 76 per cent of respondents gave to charity over the past 12 months. Of those who gave, 49 per cent contributed \$200 or less, and 51 per cent gave more than \$200, with the average gift size being \$965.

According to an Environics survey, Canadians aged 55 years and older give at twice the rate of younger Canadians, and there’s no indication that the

giving of this younger population will be replaced when older Canadians can no longer give.

Online donations have accelerated rapidly since the pandemic, even as total on-and-off-line donations fell. The top four fastest online giving categories

were: (1) Indigenous Peoples; (2) Social Services; (3) Public Benefit; and (4) Health.

Today is Giving Tuesday. You may be solicited to give. Whether you are or not, do your homework and give to a charity that doesn’t spend it all on marketing.

## ALEXANDER GALT CHRISTMAS BASKET CAMPAIGN 2021

The AGRHS Christmas basket campaign has been a long-standing tradition in the community. Over the years we have been fortunate enough to have received generous donations from our community. Again this year, I ask for your support during these even more challenging times in bringing a little Christmas spirit to our less fortunate families.

The baskets will benefit families from Alexander Galt Regional High School sector (elementary and high school).

We hope we can continue to rely on your support, as it remains very important for the success of our Christmas basket campaign.

Please, make cheques payable to  
**AGRHS Christmas Basket Campaign**  
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**AGRHS**

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Thank you for your generosity!

# EDITORIAL

*It is not enough for politicians to simply call us "heroes." Health professionals are exhausted and "burned out" and some are quitting.*

## Providing paid sick leave is now more important than ever

By Charles S. Shaver, MD

The Trudeau government has finally introduced Bill C-3, which would amend the Canada Labour code to provide ten days of paid sick leave per year to workers in the federally regulated private sector.

Now that two cases of the new Omicron variant have been reported in Ottawa, this legislation is even more important.

For over a year, Jagmeet Singh and many other MPs and journalists have called for this. However, federal and provincial health ministers should ensure that physicians, nurses, and all health professionals are fully covered. It is not enough for politicians to simply call us "heroes." Health professionals are exhausted and "burned out" and some are quitting. Quebec is now short about 4,000 nurses in the public sector. According to the Canadian Nurses Association, by 2022 Canada will lack 60,000 nurses. Sadly, although applications from foreign-trained nurses rose by 11 per cent last year, the assessment process is backlogged, and it can take \$16,000 for a foreign-trained nurse to become licensed here.

Therefore, to reduce the rate of attrition among existing nurses, governments need to provide them financial security, especially from the potential impacts of COVID-19. MDs need this as well.

Yukon has had a paid leave rebate for self-employed persons, which pays for up to ten days, but is unfortunately limited to \$378.13 per day - inadequate for physicians. Private disability insurance is generally unavailable to cover MDs against COVID-19 related loss of income. For example, the Ontario Medical Association plan has an elimination period of at least 30 days and is unavailable to those

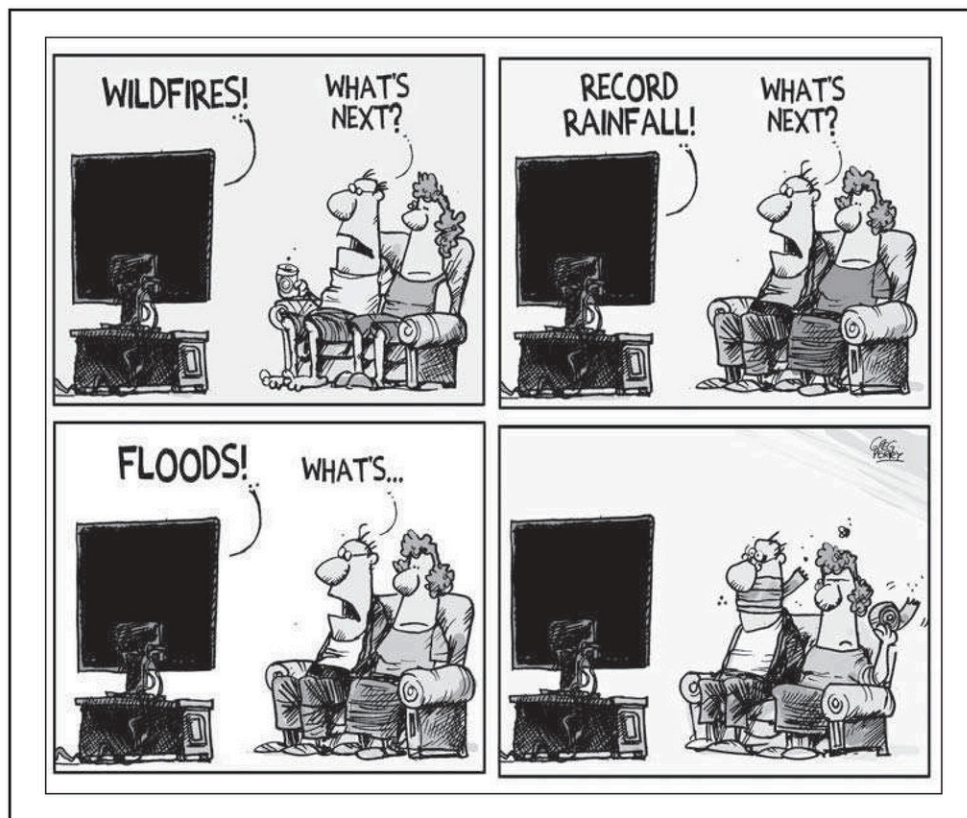
over age 65; many with pre-existing illnesses would also be excluded. Yet in 2018, 16 per cent of specialists and 15 per cent of family physicians practicing in Canada were over age 65.

All physicians - not just those in hospitals - need income-replacement from day one if they are forced to self-isolate or become ill with COVID-19. This might be similar to the SARS Income Stabilization Program in 2003 in Ontario.

According to the Canadian Institute for Health Information, as of June 15, nearly 95,000 Canadian health workers had become infected with COVID-19. About seven per cent of cases in Canada were in health professionals. As of Nov. 10, according to the Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions, 55 had died, including at least four physicians. One of these was a 48-year-old emergency physician from Regina.

Rather disconcerting and not sufficiently emphasized is the prevalence of "breakthrough" infections. For example, fully vaccinated persons accounted for 38 per cent of new cases in Quebec, 41 per cent in Ontario, 43 per cent in Manitoba, and 34 per cent in Saskatchewan. In Quebec, 65 per cent of recent admission to hospital were doubly vaccinated. In Ontario, 19 per cent of hospitalized COVID-19 patients had received both doses and 35 per cent in Saskatchewan. In Manitoba, 43 per cent of those in the hospital and 18 per cent in the ICU were fully vaccinated.

These numbers should improve as children are vaccinated and high-risk groups receive booster shots. However, it seems that although vaccines are crucial, we must continue to use all the tools in the toolbox. These include border controls (which might reduce the influx of additional cases of the



Omicron variant), adequate paid sick benefits, social distancing, and mask mandates in certain crowded indoor areas. Inasmuch as experts now admit that the virus may be airborne, there should possibly be greater use of N95 masks.

When despite these measures, certain regions are overwhelmed, we need the ability to transfer ill patients to other provinces. In June, Ontario accepted 51 patients from Manitoba, and two were also sent to Alberta and Saskatchewan. When a surge occurred in Saskatchewan in October, that province sent 27 patients to Ontario.

Quebec must be part of this. It is now reporting over 1,100 new cases per day - the highest since late April. If the situation worsens, it may attempt to transfer its own patients elsewhere. However, treating physicians must be given assurance that they will be properly paid.

As I elaborated in my letter of Nov. 2, Quebec does provide portable hospital benefits, but despite Section 11 of the Canada Health Act, it is the only province not to sign the Reciprocal Medical Billing Agreement (RMBA). As a result, if an Ontario intensivist were to treat such a patient, there would be two options:

First, bill the Quebec government directly, and likely receive a lesser fee than would be paid by OHIP.

Second, attempt to bill the patient directly. Yet if a patient is in an ICU for even one week, the bill for physician care would be several tens of thousands of dollars. Hence, almost certainly, treating MDs could expect to receive nothing directly from patients or their relatives.

In fairness to physicians, Ontario and other provinces should make it clear that the CEO of a hospital may try to refuse to accept a Quebec patient unless the Quebec Health and Social Services Minister Christian Dube signs the RMBA.

New Federal Health Minister Jean-Yves Duclos reacted with speed and decisiveness to the new Omicron variant. He and Conservative Health Critic Luc Berthold are both from Quebec. They should collaborate and urge Dube to sign well before the pandemic becomes a crisis in that province.

*Dr. Charles S. Shaver was born in Montreal, moved to the US at age 2, and returned to Canada in 1970. He is past-chair of the Section on General Internal Medicine of the Ontario Medical Association*

The Record welcomes your letters to the editor. Please limit your letters to 300 words. We reserve the right to edit for length, clarity, legality and taste. Please ensure there is a phone number or email where you can be reached, to confirm authorship and current town/city of residence. Names will not be withheld but the address and phone number of the writer are not published, except by request. Please email your letters to newsroom@sherbrookerecord.com. Preference is given to writers from the Eastern Townships.

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The Record is published daily Monday to Friday. Back copies of The Record are available.

The Record was founded on February 9, 1897, and acquired the Sherbrooke Examiner (est. 1879) in 1905 and the Sherbrooke Gazette (est. 1837) in 1908. The Record is published by Alta Newspaper Group Limited Partnership.  
 PM#0040007682

Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to The Record, 6 Mallory Street, Sherbrooke, QC J1M 2E2

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### THE RECORD

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# Congratulations Lampe Foundation award and scholarship recipients for fall 2021

## Sherbrooke Hospital Foundation Health Scholarship

Claudia Mooney

Current School: University of Sherbrooke  
Master's in social work



My name is Claudia and I am in my second year of my master's degree in social work at l'Université de Sherbrooke. Getting a good education has always been important to me and this scholarship helps me to pursue my goals. Being a varsity athlete is a big commitment and is very time consuming. This scholarship allows me to continue dedicating my time to my school and sport. It also allows to be volunteer in the community and to share my passion through coaching.

## Tillotson Foundation Health Scholarship (Champlain)

Makayla Chamberlain

Current School: Champlain Regional College  
Nursing



you for your kindness, this Bursary will help relieve financial stress and focus on school, it will help in so many ways throughout my nursing career.

Throughout my three years at Champlain in nursing I will always be thankful for this Bursary. Considering that the nursing program is very stressful and requires much effort this bursary will help me focus school and less on work.

I am a very dedicated student who put a lot of time and dedication into my work. Therefore, I hope to accomplish my goal of becoming a registered nurse. I hope to go to university after completing college to specialize in pediatrics.

Thank you for this opportunity.

I am very grateful to have received the Lampe Foundation Tillotson Champlain Nursing Bursary. Thank

## Lampe Foundation - Phelps Helps Award

Olivia Grimes

Current School: Champlain Regional College  
Special Care Counselling



I am 18 years old and the youngest of 5 siblings. At the age of 7 I was

diagnosed with dyslexia. School work was not always easy for me however with hard work and focus I achieved my high school diploma. I am currently attending Champlain Regional College in the Special Care Counselling program. My career goal is to work in a school assisting children who struggle like me and to assist them in achieving their dreams. I am honoured and proud to have received this scholarship as a reward for all my hard work and success.

## Sherbrooke Hospital Foundation Health Scholarship

Jessie Sutherland

Current School: Champlain Regional College  
Special Care Counselling



from Champlain, I would like to enter the workforce in an elementary school setting. I want to make a difference by raising awareness for children that have a learning or intellectual disability. I would like to implement strategies and create tools that will be used to help children with their education and learning process.

I would like to say thank you to the Lampe Foundation for giving me this amazing opportunity to continue my studies and keep attending college, I am truly grateful. I fear that if it were not for this scholarship, I would not have been able to enrol in my fourth semester at Champlain.

Hello, my name is Jessie; I am a second year student in the Special Care Counselling program at Champlain Regional College. After graduating

## Sherbrooke Hospital Foundation Health Scholarship

Sasha Roy

Current School: Champlain Regional College  
Nursing



My name is Sasha Roy, I'm studying at Champlain Regional College to become a Nurse. I want to become a

Nurse because one of my main goals in life is to make life better for those around me. I want to help improve health in all spheres and help people get more out of life. All that said, for now I'm a student at school full time and working part time to pay/save for school. The Lampe Foundation has helped me by giving me the freedom to not work during the week so that I can focus on my studies and hopefully become a better nurse.



*"We thank the community  
for their continued support."*

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Dr. Raphaël Paris Physician and Assistant Head of the Emergency Department



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**CFUW Sherbrooke & District 100th Anniversary Indigenous Scholarship**

Cassandra Evans  
Current School: Bishop's University  
Secondary Education & Social Studies

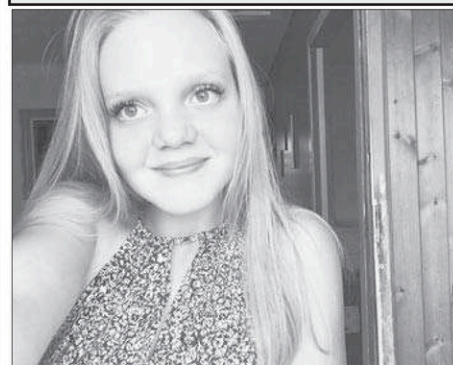


My name is Cassandra and I am currently doing a double major in Secondary Education and social studies. As someone who comes from a small town, I grew up learning the importance of giving back to their

community which is why I aspire to become a teacher. Since a very young age, I have been giving back to my community in a number of different ways such as being a 4-H member, helping out with the Trinity United Church, and volunteering at the OTJ in my hometown. In more recent years, I have been making plans to volunteer in schools in South Africa, as well as Thailand. Unfortunately, it was put to a halt due to the COVID-19 pandemic but I fully intend on pursuing these aspirations in the future. I am beyond grateful to have received this scholarship as it will help me financially, and motivate me to keep working hard.

**Sherbrooke Hospital Foundation Health Scholarship**

Anna Laflamme  
Current School: Champlain Regional College  
Nursing



I am a 20-year-old nursing student

who is about to finish College and start University this Fall. Nursing is a passion of mine; I have always wanted to become a Nurse. My career goal in life is to become a Bachelor Nurse. I want to do great things in life, I want to make a difference in a person's life. This scholarship will be so very helpful in paying my University Fees and I am so thankful to have won it. This scholarship will help me continue my studies/schooling and bring me one step closer to my goal. Thank you!



♥  
**Giving**  
Tuesday



[www.rockguertin.com](http://www.rockguertin.com)



**One-room Schoolhouse Scholarship for Elementary Education**

Miranda Garz  
Current School: Bishop's University  
Elementary Education



When I am not in school, I am a dance teacher and a horseback riding instructor.

My career goals involve helping my future students in any way I can so they can be successful. My future plans are to start my teaching career up north in the indigenous communities until I am ready to come back home to the Eastern Townships.

I am extremely grateful for this scholarship certainly since it is based on my community involvement. I am a volunteering enthusiast, certainly for my local community center in Stanbridge East. The scholarship will be of great help financially.

I am a third year Elementary Education student at Bishop's University with a minor in French.

**Sherbrooke Hospital Foundation Health Scholarship**

Karel Audit  
Current School: University of Sherbrooke  
Bachelor's in Nursing Sciences



foundation. I am very happy because it will help me achieve my goals in life. I am a very active young man that likes to play sports like lacrosse and hockey. I also like to travel and explore places. With the help of this bursary, I will be able to pay off my school debts while being able to enjoy life to the fullest. I am very lucky to have this opportunity given to me. In the near future, I would like to continue my studies to achieve my master's degree at the university of Sherbrooke.

I feel very honored to have won this scholarship from the Lampe

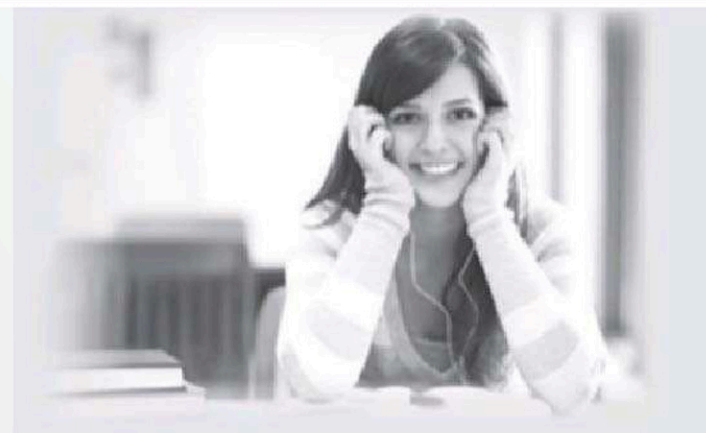
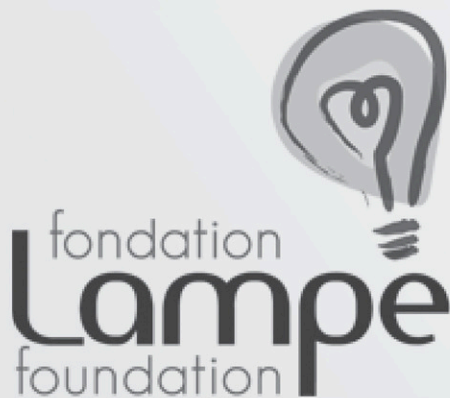


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- We are a community-based non-profit organization that is dedicated to supporting and encouraging qualified students from the Eastern Townships and across Canada, with financial assistance and mentoring.
- We provide support through heritage scholarships for students who have demonstrated their ability to serve their communities as leaders.
- We offer designated awards such as the Sherbrooke Hospital Foundation scholarships for Townshippers who are training to become health professionals in the Townships.

Show your support for our future leaders by donating to our heritage fund.

Our continued success depends on you.  
Help us to **Light the Way to a Brighter Future!**



**The Lampe Foundation**

1760 ch. d'Ayer's Cliff, Ste-Catherine-de-Hatley, QC, J0B 1W0  
<https://lampefoundation.org/donate/>

*Congratulations to all our Fall scholarship recipients!*

# Congratulations

## Lampe-Tillotson Foundation Health Scholarship (VTC)

Naomi Poulin  
Current School: LVTC  
Health, Assistance and Nursing Care



J'ai toujours été attiré par le domaine de la santé, mais ayant eu mes enfants jeune, j'avais mis le projet de côté. Toutefois, cette idée de travailler dans le domaine de la santé revenait régulièrement. C'est pourquoi, à l'âge de 31 ans, avec mon mari et mes 4 beaux enfants à mes côtés, j'ai décidé de me lancer et de faire ce changement de carrière. Je terminerai mon DEP en juin prochain, et je n'ai pas regretté un instant d'avoir enfin écouté cette petite voix! Je profiterai de cette bourse d'études pour gâter un peu les miens et moi-même avec ce temps des fêtes qui approche.

## Sherbrooke Hospital Foundation Scholarship (VTC)

Cindy Quinn  
Current School: LVTC  
Health, Assistance and Nursing Care



If I had been asked ten years ago, what I pictured my life like in the future, I never would have thought that I would be a student again preparing to embark on my career as a health care professional. As a future licensed practical nurse, my goal is to make a difference in the healthcare system, especially during such a difficult time in our lives. I am extremely grateful to have been this year's recipient for the Sherbrooke Hospital VTC Scholarship for Health Assistance in Nursing Care. Thank you for your support and believing in me and my future career. As a mother to five beautiful children and a wife to an amazing and supportive husband, I am proof that it is never too late to pursue your dreams!

## Sherbrooke Hospital Foundation Donna Draper Scholarship and CFUW Sherbrooke & District Commemorative Scholarship

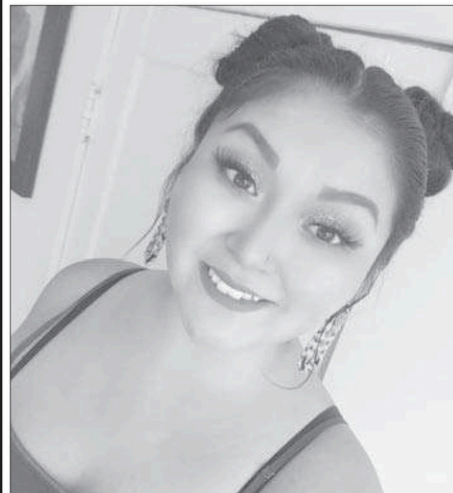
Tanya Marisa Rodrigues  
Current School: Champlain Regional College  
Nursing



I am in my final year of Nursing at Champlain College. I am ever so grateful and thankful to the Lampe Foundation Selection Committee for finding me worthy of receiving this scholarship. I am deeply humbled and honored. My interest to work in intensive care and emergency units has become stronger over my 3 years of nursing school and has solidified into my goal of achieving this. Receiving the scholarship gives me the emotional and mental encouragement to persevere with my studies and to do them to the best of my abilities.

## Sherbrooke Hospital Foundation Scholarship (VTC)

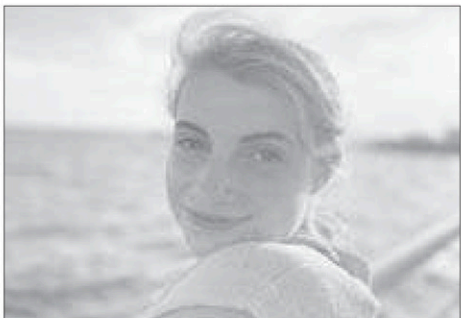
Taylor Myers  
Current School: LVTC  
Institutional and Home Care Assistance



Hello, my name is Taylor Myers, I am from a small reservation that is located north of British Columbia. I have lived here in QC for 3 years & today I am lucky to be a part of the IHCA program held at LVTC & I recently had the amazing chance of receiving the 500\$ Sherbrooke Hospital Foundation Scholarship, it is an honor and blessing. I am more than thankful to have won- especially with being a fulltime student, iykyk. My main goal and focus after completing this program is to be working long term either in private or public home care.

## Sherbrooke Hospital Foundation Donna Draper Scholarship

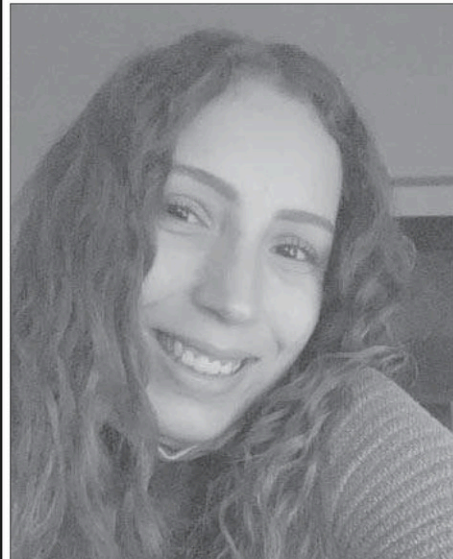
Taylor Card  
Current School: Champlain Regional College  
Nursing



I am in my third year of nursing, I am planning on going to university, and receiving this scholarship is such a privilege and blessing and I am so thankful for it. Not only does it help throughout the school year but it also helps for future schooling. So thank you for this wonderful opportunity!

## Sherbrooke Hospital Foundation Health Scholarship

Mandy Roy  
Current School: Champlain Regional College  
Special Care Counselling



Special Care Counselling program. I am passionate about this course and will forever be grateful for what it has taught me. My career goals are starting to be realized, I am aiming to be an intervener in the youth center of Sherbrooke. I am passionate about helping others but mostly about helping the youth in our community have a second chance in building a life they want for themselves and helping them overcome obstacles that have been put in their way. I am very appreciative and grateful for this scholarship as it relieves a financial stress off my shoulders. This will allow me to be more focused on my studies and continue to evolve as an intervener. I cannot say thank you enough to the team at Lampe Foundation and Heather Bowman for granting me this scholarship.

My name is Mandy Roy and I am a 3rd year college student in the

**\*\*no photo available\*\***

## Lampe-Tillotson Foundation Health Scholarship (VTC)

Alyson Lister  
Current School: LVTC  
Institutional and Home Care Assistance

# Local Sports | *I got the idea for this article in the midst of some late fall fishing on what had the potential to be my last day of 'open water' fishing in 2021.*

## Battle scars



**ON THE HOOK**  
**ANDREW HOWARTH**

In the last decade, I've accepted my identity as the 'fish guy' in the eyes of numerous people. So, you may find it unsurprising that I enjoyed Spielberg's cinematic adaptation of Peter Benchley's 1974 novel "Jaws." The film provides many classic moments and lines for us to ponder and repeat, but I'm particularly fond of Hooper and Quint's competition to decide who possessed the best 'battle scar' and corresponding fish tale.

The scene that I'm referring to takes place late at night, in the cabin of a ship named 'Orca.' Orca belongs to the seasoned captain and fisherman known as Quint, who, like any good sea captain, possesses numerous physical scars that tell a story of hard work and living. During the booze-fueled rivalry, we learn that Hooper—an educated and well-to-do marine biologist—has his own collection of battle scars gained through different, and yet similarly 'salty' work. The scene captures what I feel are widespread attitudes toward a person or wild animal's physical appearance, which serves as a crude record of courageous acts, close calls, and resilience in the face of adversity. When something is old, scarred, and yet physically robust, I can't help but wonder about the many stories it might tell.

I got the idea for this article in the midst of some late fall fishing on what had the potential to be my last day of 'open water' fishing in 2021. One of the routine discomforts that late-season anglers and hunters encounter is chilled fingers and toes, which, in extreme cases, can lead to more chronic discomforts. This year, repetitive motion and stress under cold conditions caused three of the

fingers on my left hand to swell up and lose significant mobility. The pain and inconvenience caused by this were minimal, so I did my best to ignore the discomfort, and prided myself on having persisted in my hobby despite adverse weather. The reward for this effort was handsome, but it reminded me that not all battle scars are equal.

Fall is a favoured season for many anglers and hunters, including those who prefer quarry salmon, deer, or duck. Muskie anglers also belong to this group, because it is during fall that the famed 'fish of 10,000 casts' feeds most voraciously, giving anglers a chance to tangle with what are likely the lake's largest fish. If a picture is worth 1,000 words, then an elderly muskie may be worth 10,000 words—in addition to 10,000 casts. Like a great white shark, a muskie's fins, flanks, jaw tissues, and teeth get worn down by the rigorous activities which apex predators engage in often. Examining these fish forces one to imagine the many seasons of spawning and feeding that only the fittest individuals can endure.

Given the recent chill and flash freezing of numerous boat launches, it seems likely that I've encountered my last muskie of 2021. I connected with the 47-inch beast while fishing familiar water in hopes of ending the season on a high note, with positive vibes and something to reflect on this winter. A series of awkward 'solo shots' taken from my boat provide an illustration of the battle scar assemblage described above: frayed fins and oral asymmetries suggest a long life of spawning and preying on unsuspecting walleye, which—if I may anthropomorphize briefly—seem to be worn with pride. The physical experiences of wildlife are harsh compared to ours, and their physical scars make our physical discomforts seem trivial.

As it turns out, my fascination with freshwater fish isn't so different from my fascination with 'Jaws,' and I'm far more thankful for my hands-on experiences with predatory fish. In fact, I've never tolerated any physical discomfort while pursuing a cinematic or documentary experience of fish. Surely, there's something to be said for the comfortable life which protects us from harsh elements and physical scars, but the experiences gained in our departures from this life provide many more stories.



ANDREW HOWARTH

*Before criticizing this fish for its dentition, consider what your own mouth would look like on a strict diet of spines, bones, and fish scales.*

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**Death**

**Dorothy  
(Dickie)  
(Cowan)  
WOODARD**

1933-2021



Dorothy (Dickie) passed away on November 21, 2021 at St. Vincent de Paul, Sherbrooke.

She was predeceased by her mother Alberta Nadeau, father Andrew Cowan, and her sisters Jean Cowan, Flora Fabre and Rita Cowan. Dorothy leaves to mourn her niece Louise (Graeme) Campbell, Josee and Marc Nadeau, and numerous nieces and nephews and her good friend George Fowles. She will be sadly missed. Interment in the Spring 2022.

*Deepest  
Sympathy*



# Date Book

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2021**

Today is the 334th day of 2021 and the 70th day of autumn.

**TODAY'S HISTORY:** In 1782, provisional articles of peace were signed in Paris between Britain and the United States, under which Britain recognized U.S. independence.

In 1939, the Soviet Union invaded Finland.

In 1993, President Bill Clinton signed the Brady Bill, a major gun-control measure.

In 1999, Exxon Corp. and Mobil Corp. completed their merger, creating the largest publicly held oil company in the world.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS:** Jonathan Swift (1667-1745), clergyman/satirist; Mark Twain (Samuel Clemens) (1835-1910), writer; Winston Churchill (1874-1965), British politician; Dick Clark (1929-2012), TV personality/producer; Bill Walsh (1931-2007), football coach; Abbie Hoffman (1936-1989), political activist; Ridley Scott (1937- ), filmmaker; Mandy Patinkin (1952- ), singer/actor; Billy Idol (1955- ), singer-songwriter; Bo Jackson (1962- ), football and baseball player; Ben Stiller (1965- ), actor; Amy Ryan (1969- ), actress;

Clay Aiken (1978- ), singer; Chrissy Teigen (1985- ), TV personality; Magnus Carlsen (1990- ), chess grandmaster.

**TODAY'S FACT:** Mark Twain published a number of pieces in newspapers and periodicals under a variety of pen names, including Thomas Jefferson Snodgrass, W. Epaminondas Adrastus Blab and John Snooks.

**TODAY'S SPORTS:** In 1991, the U.S. women's soccer team defeated Norway 2-1 to win the first Women's World Cup.

**TODAY'S QUOTE:** "Politics are almost as exciting as war, and – quite as dangerous ... In war, you can only be killed once. But in politics, many times." – Winston Churchill

**TODAY'S NUMBER:** 33 million – certified units sold of Michael Jackson's "Thriller," making it the best-selling solo album of all time, according to Business Insider. The album was released on this day in 1982.

**TODAY'S MOON:** Between last quarter moon (Nov. 27) and new moon (Dec. 4).

# Do Just One Thing



By Danny Seo

If you commute a lot for work, one easy way to save money, time and gas is to invest in an automatic payment device for your car for tolls on bridges and highways. In the Northeast, these devices are called EZ Passes, which allow you to go through tollbooths and pay via a synced credit card. This saves time, and you earn discounts on your tolls, but you also save gas: By cruising slowly through a tollbooth instead of coming to a complete stop, you save a significant amount of fuel over time. It's an investment to make your daily commute a little bit greener.



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Text only: 40¢ per word. Minimum charge \$10.00 (\$11.50 taxes included)

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With photo: additional \$18.50. **DEADLINE:** 11 a.m., day before publication.

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For Monday's paper, email [production@sherbrookerecord.com](mailto:production@sherbrookerecord.com) or call 819-569-4856 between 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Sunday. For Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday's edition, email [production@sherbrookerecord.com](mailto:production@sherbrookerecord.com), call 819-569-4856 or fax 819-569-1187 (please call to confirm transmission) between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. the day prior to the day of publication. The Record cannot guarantee publication if another Record number is called. Rates: Please call for costs.

# NEA Crossword Puzzle

# Your Birthday

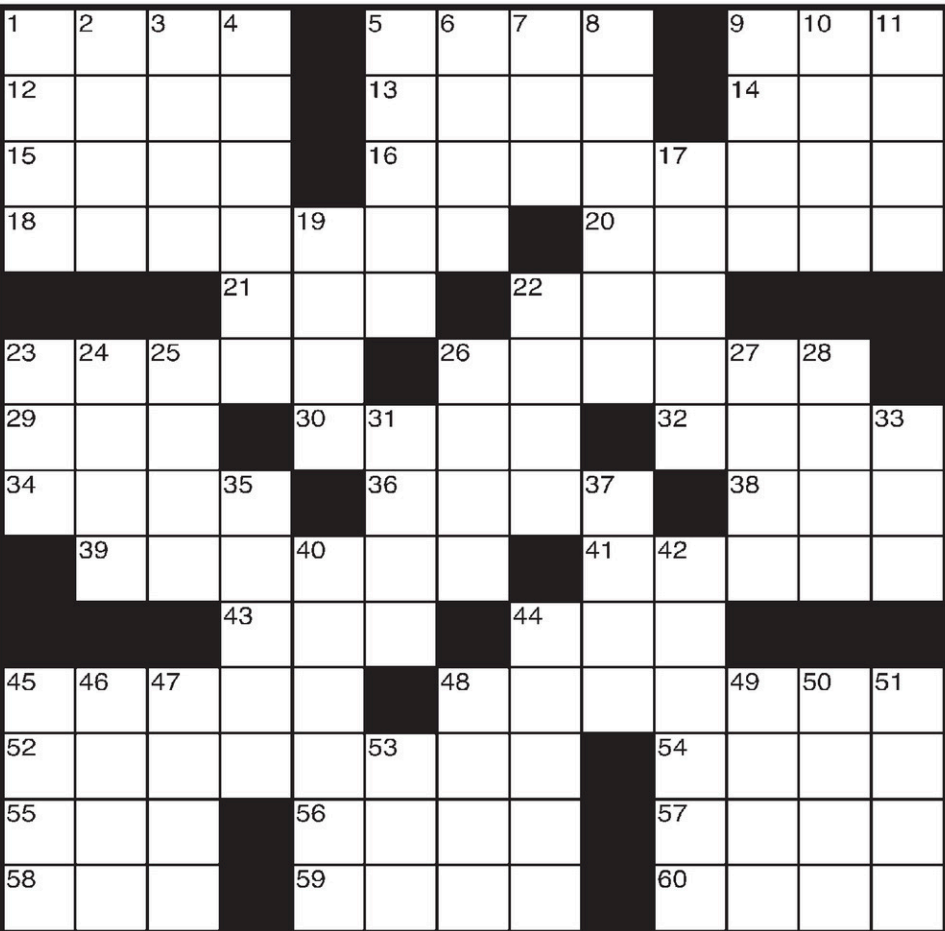
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2021

Answer to Previous Puzzle



- ACROSS**
- 1 Lahore language
  - 5 Mrs. Charles
  - 9 Modern-day cash giver
  - 12 Skinny
  - 13 Sheik's cartel
  - 14 Yes, to Rob Roy
  - 15 Identification
  - 16 Head scarf
  - 18 Duds
  - 20 Thought on
  - 21 — ammoniac
  - 22 Final letter
  - 23 Reserved
  - 26 Awe
  - 29 Jacques' pal
  - 30 Zen question
  - 32 Mild oath
  - 34 Tropical tree
  - 36 "Carpe —!"
  - 38 Raw metal
  - 39 Walk (2 wds.)
  - 41 Surgical tool
  - 43 "Grand — Opry"
- 44 Malt beverage**
- 45 Eric Clapton classic**
- 48 Precious stone**
- 52 Constitution opener**
- 54 Water, in Tijuana**
- 55 Hoisting apparatus**
- 56 Reveal indiscreetly**
- 57 Nomad's dwelling**
- 58 Pitches**
- 59 Sight from Messina**
- DOWN**
- 1 Humerus neighbor
  - 2 Cut grain
  - 3 Foggy
  - 4 Creepy feeling
  - 5 Peace Prize founder
  - 6 Gemstone
  - 7 Yiddish "Mr."
  - 8 Shrewdness

- 9 Long sighs
- 10 Youngster
- 11 Hoover Dam lake
- 17 Soft leather
- 19 Prioritize
- 22 Sector
- 23 Kind of dance
- 24 Asian nanny
- 25 About 2.2 lbs.
- 26 Hang on
- 27 They're easily bruised
- 28 Seldom seen
- 31 Comics dog
- 33 German article
- 35 Cash, casually
- 37 Mme.'s daughter
- 40 Afire, in a restaurant
- 42 Make bubbly
- 44 Invisible swimmer (Var.)
- 45 Links org.
- 46 Like the Gobi
- 47 Desires
- 48 Vitality
- 49 Made mellow
- 50 Breathing organ
- 51 Sticky fruit
- 53 Quick lunch



Weigh the pros and cons before you take action. Turn every negative into a positive, and keep your life simple, moderate and practical. An independent attitude will prove to work in your favor. If you are creative, you won't be disappointed in the results you get.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)** – Be clear about your wants and plans. Speak from the heart and strive for success. Don't underestimate others or take on more than you can handle. Inconsistency will hold you back.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** – Make rational decisions. If you let your emotions take the reins, you will regret the promises you make. Put your health and personal needs first. Take a creative, energetic approach.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19)** – Put more thought into investments and contracts. Choose a healthy, fit lifestyle. Looking and feeling your best will give you the boost you need to do a good job.

**PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20)** – Mull over how you feel about your relationships with others. Make a point to reach out to someone who shares your beliefs and long-term goals. A healthy conversation will help resolve issues.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19)** – Be patient and listen carefully to others. Understand your place and value in the grand scheme of things. Don't take a risk with your health, reputation or investments. Try to accommodate others.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)** – A sudden change will backfire if you take on too

much too fast. Take a moment to work out the logistics, and you'll realize what's required if you want to become successful.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)** – Explore new possibilities and use your skills to achieve something big. Taking a diverse approach to life, work and happiness will bring stellar results and encourage exciting partnerships.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)** – An incident will arise if you let your emotions take charge. Focus on doing the best job possible, and you will receive recognition for a job well done. Refuse to let jealousy or insecurity cause a rift with a loved one.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)** – Spend more time nurturing what you've worked so hard to build and the relationships that are meaningful to you, and you'll feel good about your accomplishments. Work to stabilize your life.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** – Aim high and refuse to let anything or anyone stand in your way. Hard work pays off. Arguing a moot point will slow you down and waste time. Don't settle for less than what you expect.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)** – Put your heart and soul into making your surroundings more convenient and comfortable. Your strength will come from doing what's best for you. Work to increase your prosperity.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)** – Refrain from sharing personal information. Be a good listener; it will give you the upper hand when dealing with peers, friends and relatives. Take a unique approach to life.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2021

## They think of the unthinkable

By Phillip Alder

J. William Fulbright, who was a senator from Arkansas for 29 years, said, "We must dare to think about 'unthinkable things' because when things become 'unthinkable' thinking stops and action becomes mindless."

Some bridge experts are good at thinking the unthinkable, making imaginative plays that never occur to us mere mortals.

If you were South in today's deal, how would you play in three no-trump after West led the spade jack?

North's three-club response was Puppet Stayman, asking for a five-card major. When South denied one (and promised at least one four-card major), North signed off in three no-trump. (If he had been looking for a 4-4 major-suit fit, he could have done that over three diamonds.)

At a tournament on the Gold Coast of Australia, most declarers won the first trick with the spade ace, played the club jack to tempt a cover, but then won with the ace and cashed the king. When East took the next trick with his club queen, it was easy to shift to the diamond jack. Now declarer had only eight winners: three spades, one diamond and four clubs.

|                         |          |          |            |
|-------------------------|----------|----------|------------|
| North                   |          | 11-30-21 |            |
| ♠                       | A 9      | ♥        | K Q 10     |
| ♦                       | 6 5 4    | ♣        | J 10 8 6 5 |
| West                    |          | East     |            |
| ♠                       | J 10 6 4 | ♠        | 7 3 2      |
| ♥                       | J 9 8 5  | ♥        | A 6 2      |
| ♦                       | K Q 9 7  | ♦        | J 10 3 2   |
| ♣                       | 3        | ♣        | Q 9 7      |
| South                   |          | South    |            |
| ♠                       | K Q 8 5  | ♥        | 7 4 3      |
| ♦                       | A 8      | ♦        | A 8        |
| ♣                       | A K 4 2  | ♣        | A K 4 2    |
| Dealer: South           |          |          |            |
| Vulnerable: North-South |          |          |            |
| South                   | West     | North    | East       |
| 1NT                     | Pass     | 3♣       | Pass       |
| 3♦                      | Pass     | 3NT      | All Pass   |
| Opening lead: ♠ J       |          |          |            |

New Zealander Michael Whibley did better – he did the unthinkable, ducking the first trick completely!

Naturally, West continued with a second spade, and East, when in with the club queen, led a third spade. Now Whibley could drive out the heart ace and take nine tricks.

Yes, maybe West should have trusted his partner's discouraging spade signal at trick one, but that is much easier said than done.

### CELEBRITY CIPHER

by Luis Campos

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

“WUG BDTO GX AUKO VDWA DSV COOZ  
GEZW. ... M DJJOXL LIDL M'K SUL  
XONCOJL DSV ML'A UT — M JDS  
ALDNL UHON DEDMS LUKUNNUB.”  
— TDZOW JGUJU

Previous Solution: “Look at how a single candle can both defy and define the darkness.” — Anne Frank

TODAY'S CLUE: A sjanbø H

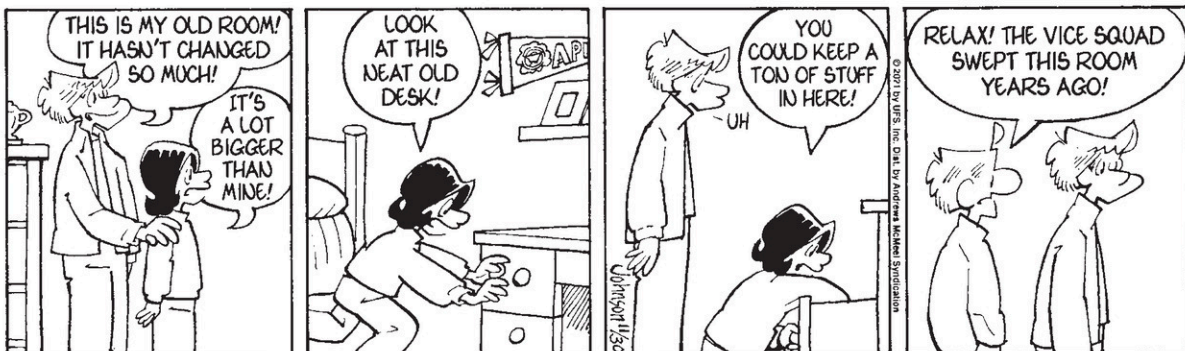
### REALITY CHECK



### ALLEY OOP



### ARLO & JANIS



### THE BORN LOSER



### FRANK AND ERNEST



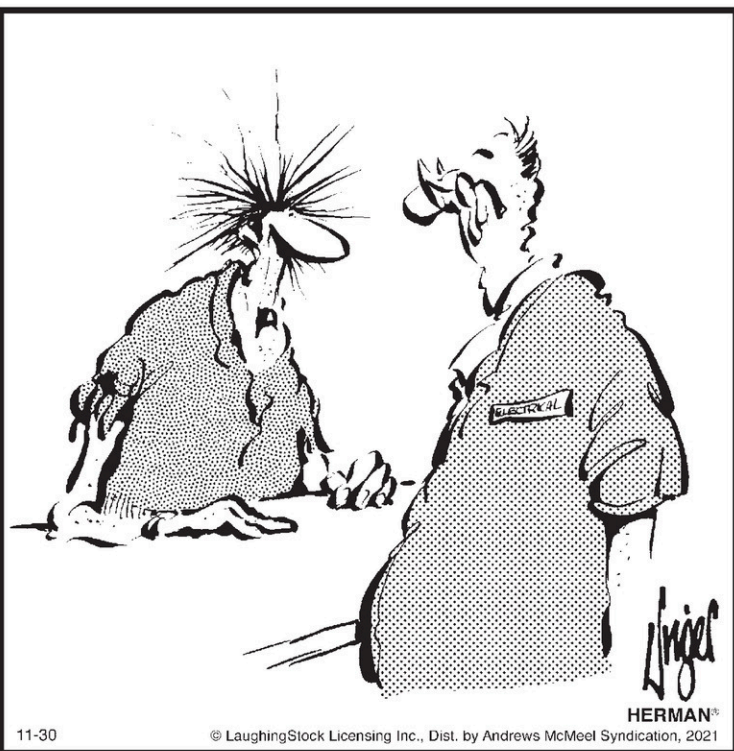
### GRIZZWELLS



### THATABABY



### HERMAN



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Advertisement for Diabetes Québec featuring a group of people and text: "Diabetes The New EPIDEMIC REACT NOW! Information and donations: (514) 259.3422 or 1.800.361.3504 www.diabete.qc.ca"

Call Sherbrooke: (819) 569-9525 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.  
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 or Knowlton: (450) 242-1188 between 9:00 a.m. and noon

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If you want to drink, that's your business. If you want to stop, we can help. Call Alcoholics Anonymous 1-888-424-2975, www.aa.org

**LENNOXVILLE**

Mental Health Estrie has officially launched its 2021-2022 HUGS for the homeless campaign. From November to March, we accept donations of NEW Hats, Underwear, Gloves, Socks and Scarves and other warm articles of clothing which are donated to local shelters for the homeless. Items can be dropped off directly at our offices in the beige bins next to door #2 at 3355 College in Lennoxville or let us do the shopping for you - all monetary gifts are used to purchase essentials. You can also call us to schedule an in-person drop-off of items or cheques. Please make cheques payable to Mental Health Estrie and indicate HUGS on the memoline. Thank you to all for your continued support and help! For more information, phone 819-565-3777 or email mhe.info@bellnet.ca.

**RICHMOND**

The annual meeting for the

Richmond Agricultural Society will be held December 7 at 8 p.m. at the former Richmond Melbourne Lions Club at 155 Craig Street, Richmond. Memberships are \$20. Current members and new members are welcome. Proof of vaccination will be required and Sante Quebec health measures will be adhered to. There are positions available for volunteer directors. Individuals who may be interested are encouraged to attend the meeting. If more information is required regarding the role of a director, please contact Avery Perkins 819-806-2910 or Donald Beard 819-452-1394. We look forward to seeing everyone.

**ONLINE WORKSHOPS**

Mental Health Estrie invites you to a free virtual workshop in English: "Reopening Anxiety: Navigating Social Gatherings and the Holiday Season" presented by Melissa Hindley (M.A., c.o., psychotherapist). Open to all, 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Wednesday, December 8. Back by popular demand, Melissa will again focus on strategies for managing anxiety. This time she will also help us to better understand and navigate anxiety related to the reopening of our society, particularly in the context of the holiday social season. For more information, or to register, please visit our Facebook or Instagram pages, email outreach@mentalhealthestrie.com, or call (819) 565-2388.

# SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ☆☆☆☆☆

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | 5 |   | 9 | 7 |   |   |   |   |
|   |   | 9 |   | 4 |   | 1 | 8 | 5 |
| 6 | 1 | 4 |   | 8 | 5 |   | 7 |   |
|   | 7 |   |   |   |   |   |   | 9 |
|   |   | 5 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 6 |   |   |
| 3 |   |   |   |   |   |   | 2 |   |
|   | 8 |   | 3 | 1 |   | 5 | 4 | 6 |
| 2 | 4 | 6 |   | 5 |   | 3 |   |   |
|   |   |   |   | 6 | 4 |   | 9 | 2 |

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### PREVIOUS SOLUTION

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 5 |
| 1 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 8 | 3 |
| 5 | 3 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 7 |
| 2 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 1 |
| 3 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 9 | 5 | 8 | 2 | 4 |
| 9 | 4 | 1 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 5 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 9 |
| 6 | 9 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 8 |
| 4 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 2 |

**HOW TO PLAY:**  
 Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.

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# Resources for depression

## Dear Annie

**Dear Annie:** Please tell “Ready to Die” that she can get disability payments because she has a mental health disorder. The problem is that people tell the disability examiners how badly they feel. But that is not the examiner’s job to assess. They want to know how dysfunctional your daily life is.

I am writing to offer suggestions to her and others who suffer from mental health issues but do not know how to secure disability benefits.

For instance, let’s take depression and how she might answer questions posed by the examiner: Can you drive yourself to the doctor? No, I can’t drive. Do you keep your house clean? Yes, but it takes me two weeks to vacuum the floor. The dishes pile up until they smell, so I only use paper plates and plastic silverware. Do you go grocery shopping? No, but a neighbor picks up what I need. I don’t eat much.

Here are some examples of how she might address manic phases: Can you drive? Sometimes, but I speed and can’t concentrate on safety. Do you clean your house? Yes, but I stay awake for three days and then fall back into lethargy. Do you dress yourself? Yes, but I throw on anything that’s on the floor. Sometimes, people laugh at me for how I’m dressed.

People with mental illness need someone to practice with them before they are examined. They are focused on their suffering, for good reason.

Find an experienced disability lawyer. They can often help you to prepare for an examiner’s interview. Some attorneys might be sleazy, but there are also some fine, dedicated lawyers. Your case will move forward much more quickly, even if that feels like a long time. Remember that when you do get Social Security Disability Insurance, they will pay from the date

of the application, not the date of approval.

Get a case manager or someone to help you through this process. Any psychiatric records are helpful. Do not say you drink, or whatever, to medicate. The way you should frame it is to explain that you have an addiction problem.

So many individuals fail to get the benefits they are entitled to because not even most therapists or psychiatrists understand how this system works. – Ph.D.

**Dear Ph.D.:** I always love when professionals reach out with advice, including the next letter about finding a psychiatrist and an attorney.

**Dear Annie:** This is about the unfortunate individual with severe treatment-resistant depression, who will definitely qualify for total and permanent disability.

She should see a competent psychiatrist ASAP, and they will help her with the most modern effective management of depression.

In addition, they will be able to write appropriate letters to the Social Security Administration and other agencies so that she will receive total permanent medical disability, which she richly deserves. – Right to an Attorney

**Dear Right:** Thank you for sharing your advice. Let’s hope it helps all readers who are suffering from depression and who have, so far, not been able to secure disability payments.

*“Ask Me Anything: A Year of Advice From Dear Annie” is out now! Annie Lane’s debut book – featuring favorite columns on love, friendship, family and etiquette – is available as a paperback and e-book. Visit <http://www.creatorspublishing.com> for more information.*

Send your questions for Annie Lane to [dearannie@creators.com](mailto:dearannie@creators.com).

# Watch out, COVID-19.



**Vaccination for 5 to 11-year olds has begun.**

[Quebec.ca/YOUTHvaccine](https://Quebec.ca/YOUTHvaccine)

Votre gouvernement

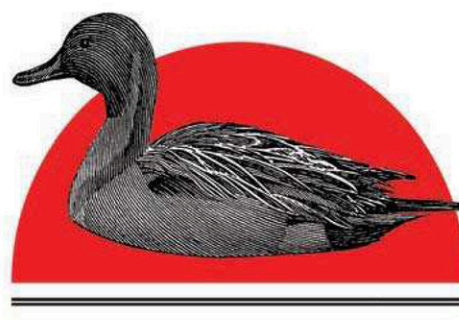
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## Heroes' breakfast program bowling fundraiser exceeds expectations



COURTESY LOUISE SMITH

Staff members who came out for the event were happy to hear of the final result of over one thousand dollars for the evening.

By Louise Smith

Cory Sylvester, a janitor at Heroes' Memorial School, and the owner of the Deuxième Tir Au But sports store at 350 rue Principale, unit 135, in Cowansville, decided to organize a fundraiser to help support the school's breakfast program.

Cory is a bowler at the Salles des Quilles on rue Sud, and he came up with the idea of having a bowl-a-thon

to raise funds.

On Saturday night the lanes were full of staff and parents and friends and former staff and students, all ready to have fun while participating in the event. Cory solicited many door prizes from local businesses including the Salle des Quilles, the Deuxieme Tir Au But sports store, the Esso gas station in Cowansville, St. Hubert Express, Chausseurs Pop shoe store up by the CIBC, Garage Bates,

and the Aloha Sante health bar which has recently opened up in town.

Cory had hoped to reach a goal of \$1,000, but by the end of the evening that goal was surpassed for a grand total of \$1,426.25. Two hundred dollars of the total was donated to the cafeteria to buy snacks for students who come to school without snacks. The whole goal is to make sure that no student starts the day hungry. Eliminating

hunger leads to better learning during the day.

The staff members who were present on Saturday night were grateful for the large amount of money raised and the fun way in which it was done. Cory and his team are to be congratulated for a wonderful evening in every way. Anyone who wants to contribute to the school and its programs can contact the school at 450-263-1612.

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# Brome County Community Bulletin Board

December 5

Please join us for Hymn Sing on December 5 at 3 p.m. at St. James Anglican Church - Foster. 725 Lakeside, Foster. We will have some of our traditional songs t some Christmas ones as well. Note that masks are worn while singing, hands are to be sanitized on entering and social distancing will be respected. We look forward to greeting you again for a wonderful time of singing praise.

December 10

Meet the Artisans! **Marché Noël Artisanal is open every week**, Thursday to Sunday during November and December, plus the week leading up to Christmas. Shop leisurely and safely without the crowds! Only a few artisans will be present at different times on December 10, 11, 12 but everyone's table is ready at all times. Facebook for updates @marchedesartisansdunham or contact [michilynnd@gmail.com](mailto:michilynnd@gmail.com).

December 11

**Knowlton Harmony Band 2021 Christmas Concert** - Knowlton United Church. Saturday December 11 at 4 p.m. Vaccination passport mandatory. Donations Accepted

## CHURCH BULLETINS

### ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH - DUNHAM

Church service every Sunday at 10 a.m. with Holy Communion. 3829 rue Principale Dunham. For more

information, please contact the Rev. Sinpoh Han at 450 295-2045

### ANGLICAN PARISH OF BROME

Sunday services cancelled until further notice. See the announcement for Grace Anglican Church to join the on line meeting on Sunday mornings. Information: Rev Tim Smart 450-538-8108

### BEDFORD PASTORAL CHARGE OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

Advent Two - PEACE. We light the Candle of Peace as we continue our Advent journey. Worship service 9:30 a.m. at Stanbridge East United led in rotation by our worship team leaders. We follow pandemic protocols. Worship Leader: Karen Lackey-Ryan. Church office: 450-248-3044; email: [bedford.pastoral@yahoo.ca](mailto:bedford.pastoral@yahoo.ca)

### CREEK/WATERLOO PASTORAL CHARGE

Creek United, West Bolton, and St. Paul's United, Waterloo, are now meeting weekly in-person, respecting physical distancing, registration of attendance, hand sanitising, and the wearing of masks. The Creek service starts at 09h00. The Waterloo service starts at 10h30. Communion is normally the first Sunday of the month. Other special services must be arranged through the minister. Church office is 450-539-2129 Rev. Dave Lambie @ 450-531-3149

### EMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH

Advent Two - PEACE. We light the

Candle of Peace as we continue our Advent journey. Sunday's hybrid worship service is at 11 a.m. Please request the Zoom link that is published in the weekly Friday newsletter. We follow COVID-19 protocols. Join us December 12 for a "Lessons and Carols" service with an ad hoc women's choir. Christmas services will be announced next week. Please join us. Minister: Rev. David Lefneski, 450-955-1574. Church office: 450-263-0204; email: [capchurchoffice@bellnet.ca](mailto:capchurchoffice@bellnet.ca)

### ÉGLISE CATHOLIQUE ST. ÉDOUARD CATHOLIC CHURCH

Our 10:30 a.m. Sunday Mass has resumed as we adhere to the strict protocols established by the Quebec Public Health Department. Thank you for your understanding. For more information, call: 450-263-1616 or visit the website <http://unitedesvignes.org>

### GRACE ANGLICAN CHURCH

We are now open for in-person worship at our 10:30 am Sunday services at Grace Anglican Church, Sutton. Everyone is welcome, bring your voice to be accompanied by our wonderful new organ (singing with masks for now). Alternatively, you can attend online. For an invitation to join, please email the Rev. Tim Smart, [revtimsmart@gmail.com](mailto:revtimsmart@gmail.com) or visit our Facebook page "Grace Church, Sutton" for the Sunday link.

### KNOWLTON-MOUNTAIN VALLEY PASTORAL CHARGE

Join us for 11 a.m. in person worship at Knowlton United Church, 234 Knowlton Road. Worship services are held the 1<sup>st</sup> three Sundays of each month unless otherwise indicated. Also join on the Facebook Church Group 'Knowlton-Mountain Valley Pastoral Charge' for our services. For further information please contact Rev. Steve Lawson at 450-242-1993. Members will be asked to follow COVID-19 protocols as outlined by the Quebec Public Health Department.

### ST. PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

St. Paul's has re-opened for Sunday in person worship at 8 and 10 am. We continue to livestream our Sunday morning worship at 8 and 10 a.m. at St. Paul's Knowlton on Facebook. All services are also available for replay. At 24 St. Paul's Road in Knowlton, St. Paul's is a dynamic diverse community pursuing and serving Jesus in the Eastern Townships. Our mission is to grow in members and spiritual maturity so that we can reach as many people as possible with the love of Jesus. Everyone welcome! Telephone: 450-242-2885 email: [stpaulsknowlton@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulsknowlton@gmail.com)

### TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH

We welcome you to join us for our 10:30 a.m. Sunday morning church services in the church. We adhere to the protocols established by the Quebec Public Health Department and the Anglican Diocese of Montreal. To leave a message, please contact the church office 450-955-3303.

## Boulevard des Arts prepares for round two

BCN Staff

After a successful first season, Boulevard des Arts, supported by Festifolies, is once again inviting artists and artisans from Saint-Armand, Frelighsburg, Stanbridge East, and Dunham to participate in its second edition in September 2022.

In its first edition, the artistic circuit saw 5,500 visits. The 34 participating

artists installed in 19 workshops received thousands of visits from people coming from the Eastern Townships, Montérégie, and Montreal.

In 2022, the workshops will open its doors to art lovers from Saturday, Sept. 3 to Sunday, Sept. 11. Local artists will be able to welcome, if they wish, colleagues from the region or elsewhere in their studio.

These artists must submit a proposal to participate. Artists and artisans

must also have a workshop and a place of creation and production that is accessible, safe, and pleasant where they can receive visitors in one of the four municipalities served or be invited by a resident artist. Artists must agree to receive visitors for the duration of the circuit. They must be able to demonstrate that they have an original, personal and sustained artistic production.

A great novelty for the second

edition is that it will have a collective exhibition that will allow visitors to discover all the participants in one place, which will be announced at a future date.

Artists interested in participating have until Dec. 19 to submit their proposal. The form and all the required information can be found on the Boulevard des Arts website at [www.leboulevarddesarts.com](http://www.leboulevarddesarts.com)



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# Brome Lake commits to installing new water and sewer infrastructure at mobile home park

By Michael Boriero  
Local Journalism Initiative

After spending over a decade without a proper drinking water network and an outdated sewage system, residents of the West-Brome mobile home park are set to receive an infrastructure upgrade next summer.

The park is home to roughly 70 families. They have been forced to boil their water before consumption, or purchase bottled water, for more than 10 years. Brome Lake Mayor Richard Burcombe is relieved to finally close the chapter on this prolonged issue.

"This dossier has been going on probably for 12, 14 years. When I was elected in 2013 it was brought to the table and how can we serve these 70 trailers with a population of 140 people, who have been boiling their water for the last 10, 11 years," said Burcombe.

In a press release last week, the town announced that it had received \$3.1 million in financial assistance from the Quebec government through the Programme d'infrastructures municipales d'eau (PRIMEAU). The total cost of the construction project,

however, is \$3.5 million.

The funding will cover 95 per cent of the water and sewer infrastructure construction costs, which includes a new "drinking water production plant" and a "wastewater treatment plant and a sewer collection system." The park's owner, Richard Gauthier, will need pay \$400,000.

"The Quebec government would give let's say \$500,000, I'm just using a round figure [...] but for 20 years, so they would give us \$500,000 and pay the interest for that year and that little bit left well the owner has to come in and pay his part," Burcombe explained to The Record.

The funding goes against the town's debt, he continued, but it's not a net debt, so it won't have an impact on taxpayers, apart from the residents living in the mobile home park. Burcombe added that the construction project will last about 15 weeks, starting in May or June.

"We have to first build a treatment centre, then we have to build, we have to install all of the pipes, and then we have a reservoir for the two wells and of course that is where the water will be treated with chlorine, if it needs to be or whatever, but that's more technical," he said.

The Record visited the mobile home community last Thursday. Gauthier was asked about the financial assistance, but he refused to take part in an interview. Residents were also unwilling to go on the record regarding the town's construction announcement.

However, one resident described muddy water pouring from their faucets, and appearing in their toilet every few days. They also go through brief periods without being able to shower because the water isn't clean. It often lasts between two or three days.

Another resident, who has been living in the mobile home park for 15 years, said boiling water has just become a normal part of their lives. The resident also noted that they'll believe the announcement when they see shovels in the ground. Residents have been burned in the past.

In 2016, Brome Lake took over the responsibility to update the water and sewer infrastructure at the mobile home park. Gauthier was ordered to fix the problem by the government, but he refused to pay for the construction costs. The town went out in search of financial aid.

When the town first started to look

into government grants, they were expecting the cost of the project to be \$2.1 million. They discovered that they were eligible for a grant that would cover 70 per cent of the cost, leaving Gauthier with a bill of about \$700,000.

However, that project never materialized. According to Burcombe, the government kept changing its requirements until they were finally able to put out a call for tenders this year. Now the town needs to put forward a borrowing bylaw for \$3.5 million over 20 years.

It will need to be put to a vote, but Burcombe is confident that residents will be in favour of the bylaw, especially those living in the mobile home park. The new infrastructure will also increase the property value in the area, which will please many of the residents.

"They're finally happy that now it's going to happen because let's say they were to try and sell their trailer, they own the trailer but they don't own the land [...] if they wanted to sell that trailer, I mean whose going to buy it with no sewer, and basically sewer water," said Burcombe.

# Brome-Missisquoi CLD seeks solutions to business challenges

BCN Staff

The Brome-Missisquoi CLD is embarking on a major reflection process to identify possible solutions so that Brome-Missisquoi companies can adapt and plan their activities in the face of new labour market conditions and help them meet new challenges. This approach is made possible with the financial support of the Government of Quebec.

According to a press release, the CLD wants to address the main regional issues experienced by businesses and the population with the objective of mobilizing all the partners of the regional economic ecosystem around an action plan, developed and validated in collaboration with the business community, with a view to sustainable development of the region.

To do this, the firm Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton was mandated to conduct surveys of the general public and businesses, carry out consultations that will allow community stakeholders and elected officials to discuss pre-established issues, organize an event, the Rendez-vous

économique (RDV) of Brome-Missisquoi 2022, and to propose a dynamic and sustainable action plan with concrete solutions.

Since March 2020, the Brome-Missisquoi region has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The economy of Brome-Missisquoi is doing well in general, but there are challenges related to labour, housing, digital transformation, transport and climate change.

Widespread across Quebec, labour shortage issues also affect businesses of the region. Beyond the issues related to the availability of workers, companies could make better use of the tools offered to improve their practices of attraction, mobilization, retention, training, diversification and inclusion of the workforce.

Climate change is one of the most important threats to the environment and biodiversity in the region, but it also has serious social and economic consequences. It is fundamental for the CLD to take into account the economic impacts of climate change so that the


territory and its companies are adopting innovative green growth strategies to adapt to transitions to come, but also to ensure better resilience.

The lack of diversified housing is detrimental to the attraction and retention in the region territory of several profiles of citizens, such as young families, workers, seniors or people living alone.

The challenges in transportation are numerous and stem from several factors, in particular: changes to the socio-demographic distribution on the territory, the singularity of a region comprising

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If you have recently lost a loved one (*spouse, parent, sibling, or child*) and not necessarily at the Diapason, and would like to join our support group, please contact us at **450-534-2002** and ask to speak to Pierrette Parent.


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Meetings will begin as soon as we have the right number to form a group.

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## Editorial

*If media literacy were implemented in education, consumers would be more likely to recognize the lack of truth online and begin to find empowerment in investing in local, traditional, and trustworthy news sources.*

### Is the media in crisis?

As the digital age continues to take over the industry, traditional journalism institutions

By Taylor McClure  
Masters student Concordia University  
Digital Innovation in Journalism Studies

only 13% of people said that they pay for online news; providing a glum picture of the obstacles the media is facing in an age where social media takes the crown.

Some may argue that traditional media use these platforms to market their stories, but their stories are not marketed as free. The intention behind the social media presence is to encourage people to invest in their local media made up of professionally trained journalists, where readers will find important information about their communities, and not special interest groups, like conspiracy group QAnon, that use social media for its own political, social, and financial gain.

In traditional business models, print publications depend on advertising as a source of revenue, but there has been a recent shift.

The media crisis was brought to the Quebec National Assembly by the Commission de la culture et de l'éducation in 2020. In its report, it highlighted the Canadian Media Concentration Research Project from 2017. According to its findings, Google and Facebook made up half of the total media advertising revenue spent in Canada in 2017.

In Quebec, investing in advertising revenue in daily newspapers fell from \$507 million in 2003 to \$255 million by 2017 and from \$169 million to \$119 million for weeklies.

With more screen time than play time, people are seeking out their news through a technological device driving advertisers to the web.

Going forward, governments need to cap the content that Facebook is providing users for free and demand that news outlets receive revenue for what is published; the case in both France and Australia. Value needs to be given to the stories that journalists work tirelessly to provide their communities.

With this new source of revenue, media can invest in journalists with new skill sets, like programming skills to develop tools, software, and applications that contribute to the quality of print journalism and create new forms of storytelling that audiences can relate to.

As technology continues to expand, new platforms for storytelling emerge, like podcasting and blogging, and traditional media no longer has a monopoly over news.

With access to these technologies,

citizens are playing their part in producing news stories resulting in what some have referred to as information pollution and fake news.

Some news outlets in Quebec recognize the need to update their business models. Newspaper publishers told a National Assembly committee that they have diversified their platforms, developed niche journalism content, and adopted new formats, like podcasting, that provide reliable information and with success.

Scholars Andrius Suminas and Deimantas Jastramskis from Vilnius

University write about media literacy and how vital it is to aid consumers in navigating this digital media landscape by providing the critical thinking skills to evaluate media content in an era of fake news. If media literacy were implemented in education, consumers would be more likely to recognize the lack of truth online and begin to find empowerment in investing in local, traditional, and trustworthy news sources.

As the media continues to embrace change in their business models, the public must safeguard the gatekeepers of democracy.

### LETTERS

Stanley Neil

DEAR EDITOR:

Last June, Economic Development and Official languages Minister, Melanie Joly gave the Liberal's position regarding Official Languages Act Reform C-32 : (ref see . A,B,C and D below). Since that time, the provincial government has presented Bill 96 referencing changes to the Language Act. Both Governments have lincorrectly claimed the need of A) "a formal recognition that the French Language requires a special protection." Please note, not that many years ago, one would see English signs, meet and hear English everywhere and receive promotional documents in English. Not anymore, so they need to explain why the need for the extra protection, when everything has already changed to French. B) In all federal buildings across Canada, Francophones can expect to be served in their language, however, Anglophones in Quebec will not be allowed to receive those same services. I am sure Trudeau would say it's because of BILL 101 and just ignore the results of the war measures act of 1759 OR 1812. C) The feds say "Our constitutional duty is to be there to protect official minority communities" even though Trudeau has already said provinces should have the right to control their province, which includes Language, EVEN THOUGH THE CANADIAN CONSTITUTION says otherwise. D) Meme Joly says, "the feds will provide financial support to Canadians who have to access the courts to clarify certain constitutional and quasi-constitutional official language rights" Trudeau already stated (his opinion, which is not a legal interruption) that Quebec can change certain parts of the Canadian Constitution? He says the provinces should be able to set their own rules and that French is the only official language of Quebec. So, the logic (if any) here, is the federal government will provide financial assistance if/when there is a legal question regarding Quebec taking away RIGHTS (including Language) of an Anglophone, if ever one felt their rights have been abused. Therefore, the Anglophone will have to challenge the case in Quebec court, which has the legal legislative power, according to Trudeau (see above) was given to Quebec. That seems to be a complicated process which would only result in Quebec winning and profiting from the Canadian government, as no judge would judicate against the legal right (Trudeau's opinion only) which Trudeau and the federal flunkies are agreeing to pass onto Quebec.

In Summation, CAQ will be attempting to pass Bill 96 by the end of the year, the feds do not appear to be doing anything and to top it off the Minister that was responsible Mdmae Joly, has been promoted.

Readers, if you care about your rights, you need to take action, tell your Government Bill 96, needs to go before the supreme court of Canada.

Brome County News welcomes your letters to the editor. Please limit your letters to 300 words. We reserve the right to edit for length, clarity, legality and taste.

Please ensure there is a phone number or email where you can be reached, to confirm authorship and current town/city of residence. Names will not be withheld but the address and phone number of the writer are not published, except by request.

Preference is given to writers from the Eastern Townships.

Tic tock, tic tock, do you hear that? It's the final countdown for the media to shift its gears.

If current business models aren't adapted and strategies aren't created to generate revenue, we will witness traditional media, key pillars in upholding a society's democracy, continue to drop like flies; one, by one.

Technology giants like Google and Facebook are making news freely accessible, advertisers are shifting their focus to the web, and new platforms for storytelling are emerging leaving traditional media scrambling to find innovative ways to avoid being swallowed up by the digital tide.

The media in Quebec and Canada has been faced with financial instability for some time.

In 2018, 69 media outlets across Canada, 36 of these newspapers, permanently closed. The pandemic in 2020 saw another 50 media outlets lost, including 29 community newspapers, and there were major layoffs, as outlined by J Source: The Canadian Journalism Project.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau introduced Bill C-10 to ensure financing and promotion of Canadian content, with a plan to require social media platforms to fund Canadian news outlets.

The situation is not necessarily the result of the public's lack of interest in news.

Social media companies provide news content to users produced by media at no charge allowing it to attract a wide audience. This accessibility has changed the way people consume news.

According to the Canada Digital News Report from 2020, accessing news through print and broadcasting is declining while accessing news through social media and online is rising.

In just four years, accessing print news sources declined from 36% in 2016 to 25% in 2020. Accessing news through social media jumped from 48% to 53%.

Even with an online presence, traditional media outlets are struggling. Since people can access news freely, they are not willing to pay. In the same study,



Established May 1991

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CIRCULATION

Distributed to all Record subscribers every Tuesday as an insert, and to households and businesses in Abercorn, Bedford, Brigham, Brome, Bromont, Cowansville, East Farnham, Foster, Fulford, Knowlton (Brome Lake), Sutton, Bolton Centre, West Brome.

The Record was founded on February 7, 1897, and acquired the Sherbrooke Examiner (est. 1879) in 1905 and the Sherbrooke Gazette (est. 1837) in 1908. The Record is published by Alta Newspaper Group Limited Partnership.

Canadian Publications Mail Service Product Agreement No. 0479675.

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5-B VICTORIA ST., KNOWLTON, QUEBEC, JOE 1V0  
TEL: (450) 242-1188 FAX: (450) 243-5155  
bcnnews@qc.aibn.com

Published weekly by

THE RECORD

6 Mallory, Sherbrooke, QUEBEC, J1M 2E2

E-MAIL: newsroom@sherbrookerecord.com website: www.sherbrookerecord.com SHARON MCCULLY PUBLISHER (819) 569-6345 MATTHEW MCCULLY ASSOCIATE EDITOR (819) 569-6345 NICOLE MARSH SECRETARY (450) 242-1188 JESSE BRYANT ADVERTISING (450) 242-1188

### BCN RATES & DEADLINES COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Brome County News Community Calendar is reserved for non-profit organizations only. **Deadline is noon on Fridays.** Must be pre-paid. Up to 40 words: \$8, 41-70 words: \$12, 71-100 words: \$15, all prices include taxes. **Special rates:** \$2 off for 2 insertions, 1 BCN and 1 in the Friday Record "What's On" section. Please forward notices to 5-b Victoria St., Knowlton, QC JOE 1V0, email: bcnnews@qc.aibn.com, or fax: (450) 243-5155. Visa and Mastercard accepted.

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ABC Life Literacy Canada

# Celebrating 60 years of bar life, new owners give the Thirsty Boot a new kick

By Taylor McClure  
Special to Brome County News

The Thirsty Boot is celebrating 60 years of being a community gathering spot and new owners Daniel Webster and Carrie Haber are looking to give it new life. The space has a long history of musical guests, supporting the arts, encouraging social connections, and we can't forget about its famous roast beef sandwiches. Webster and Haber, who are both artists, purchased the building last winter and are welcoming the community to the Thirsty Boot with open arms.

"We have a place here on Mount Echo so we are always around, but last year when the pandemic started, we were here full time. We were just driving around and we drove by the Boot and saw a for sale sign. I went in and I looked around. With the pandemic and all, it started to make me curious and how it would be something to do during the pandemic to fix it up," said Webster.

Webster knew the significance behind the Boot as a special meeting place for English Townshippers and immediately recognized its potential. "I just thought that either way, it was a beautiful spot, it had a lot of potential, and no matter what, it wasn't going to

be a waste of time. We wanted to make it beautiful and draw people to come to events we have planned, so we didn't really see anything scary about it. It's a place that needed some love and that's what we did. We put our time and our passion into it."

Despite being a big project, the renovations to the building are rounding out. "We are keeping all of the old décor. Basically, it's just a lot of cleaning and supporting the building so it wouldn't fall down. It is very much an old feeling and an old vibe and what we are doing is cleaning it up. There was an old carpet from 70s in front of entrance and we took it out, we are dealing with every drafty window and other elements, and taking out the old furnace. We want it to breathe better, to be clean, and comfortable for people."

Their goal is to keep up the traditions that have made the Thirsty Boot what it has been over the last six decades and to create their own story. "We have a kitchen open from Thursday to Sunday presently. It goes hand in hand; it's been a tradition of the place and we are just bringing it all back. It was famous for its roast beef sandwiches from the 70s onward with many artists, performers, poets. There has been a bar life here since 1961 with a lot of different owners, some



COURTESY

of whom did different things, but essentially it was an important space for the community."

They recently started up their live music shows that will take place every weekend, which have grabbed the community's attention, and they will be taking advantage of the Boot's outdoor spaces. "We have a great event space outdoors with a little lake behind the place for weddings and country music festival events. From music, to theatre, to maybe a local

food fair event. It could be anything from a pumpkin pie contest, to some other types of craft beer tastings, anything to do with wine, local sporting events, hosting birthday parties."

Webster works in the music business and Haber is an artist, making it a no-brainer to invest their passion into space that has supported the arts. "I think we resurrected it to be a place for people where they can eat, drink, make music, and have fun."

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# Calling

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It's been a rough year for artists and performers, with public gatherings banned, venues shuttered, craft shows cancelled and theatre performances put on hold.

Brome County News wants to help kickstart the arts sector that contributes so much to the vitality and richness of Brome-Missisquoi.

Each week the newspaper will feature a local artist, musician, writer or performer.

Brome County News will also publish a comprehensive Artists Directory for Brome-Missisquoi to allow residents and visitors to find musicians for live performances, pianists for weddings or special occasions, potters to create the perfect gift, to commission a painting by a Townships artist or to buy books written by Townships' authors.

**If you are an artist, writer, musician, actor or artisan, or otherwise involved in the arts, send us an email and someone will contact you about your FREE listing in the directory.**

**bcn@sherbrookerecord.com**

Check out the Brome County News website:  
**www.bromecountynews.com**



# What's behind the creative mind



Celebrating the arts in Brome-Missisquoi

*This project has been made possible by the Community Media Strategic Support Fund offered jointly by the Official Language Minority Community Media Consortium and the Government of Canada.*

# Katka Hubacek

By Hannah Polinski

While many artists grow up with an inherent draw to their medium of choice, painting did not take prominence in Katka Hubacek's life until her adult life. A graduate of the National Theatre School in Montreal, Hubacek was occupied by costume and set design for years before she began to consider her own creative processes.

"I remember doing paintings as a child, but it took a very long road to getting here," she explains of her career. "It feels like everything I was doing was training to have the confidence to get my own skills."

Hubacek was born to Czech parents in Switzerland, and moved to Canada at the age of three. She grew up in Sutton until her studies brought her to Montreal, but still returns to the Eastern Townships during the summer and more recently during the pandemic.

"For me, painting is one of those feelings where I'm going into the unknown. The bigger the canvas, the more you have to let go. There's no thinking my way out of it. I'm pushed more into trusting my instincts."

Her artistic hand is guided by instinct and inspired by feelings that she often cannot name until she has put the final touches on a canvas. There's an apparent discomfort or angst behind her work, one that is often visited by a ghost-like figure that lingers around scenes of heart and home.

"When I first started painting, it was about my relationship to motherhood, the label of motherhood and societal ideas," she says. "There's an unrealistic expectation of what motherhood is like."

As a mother, Hubacek found herself struggling against the societal expectation that idealized mothers as superwomen able to balance having several children alongside an amazing house and successful career. She found herself mourning the loss of time for herself and expressed this frustration through painting.

The beauty of art is that it's able to capture an artist's emotions at a specific point in time. This allowed Hubacek to come to a new realization once she viewed her canvases in a new light.

"Months after doing these paintings I realized the problem isn't that I don't have time. The problem is that I don't know who I am outside of labels like girlfriend, set designer, mother, etc. It became about feeling the pressure of these labels."

This desire to escape labels and find her own space is apparent in her mixed media illustrations, which can involve collages, ink, watercolour, sewing, and more. These illustrations feature the ghostly figure in addition to child-like scribbles with a frustrated quality to them, with text like "free me" or "going nowhere" visible in the background.




# Townships' Farmers



FARM NEWS REVIEW  
SCOTT STEVENSON

Local Journalism Initiative

Get the farm going, then finish the house  
*Mary-Ellen and Ross Kirby keep the old ways alive near Cookshire*

After 33 years, the house isn't finished, but Mary and Ross Kirby are more than settled: they started their own farm from scratch 12 years ago and rediscovered who they are.

Last week, on the morning of the first significant snowfall of the season, Mary served coffee, set me down at the dining room table by the woodstove with the heat-propelled fan spinning on top, and told her farming story.

It started in the early 2000s around the time Mary was running the Inspirations store in Lennoxville, Ross working for the municipality. They went to help neighbours with their cows one day.

"I cried my way home," Mary said. Ross asked what was wrong. "I need a barn in my life," she replied.

### In the blood

Both she and Ross grew up on farms, in multi-generation farm families, the Sylvesters and Kirbys of Cookshire and Compton areas. But neither inherited a family farm. Instead, Mary had a six-acre lot with nothing on it, tucked well back on small country roads, including her and Ross's own dead-end. They were surrounded by field, pasture, and sugar bush but had no plans to work the land.

Going to the neighbour's barn to help that day, "brought back all that good stuff," Mary said of her farming childhood.

Now, 12 years back into the lifestyle, "we aren't farming to build up a retirement," or for any other luxury, she added. "We're farming because it's who we are. It's in our blood."

In 2009, they bought their first 10 sheep—"10 old ewes." Then, after a steep learning curve in which they lost a high percentage of lambs to parasites in their first spring, Mary and Ross decided "in 2011-2012 to go bigger," registering 60 to 75 ewes, renting barn space and over 80



SCOTT STEVENSON

Mary-Ellen and Ross Kirby plan to finish the kitchen soon now.

acres from neighbours.

### Heritage breeds

Today, Bergerie Heritage Hill Farm also includes a couple of Irish Dexter cattle, pigs, and heritage-breed chickens, including Buff Orpingtons and Chanteclers—hence the name of their farm. "We want to keep alive some of those old dual-purpose breeds," Mary said. Their sheep are North Country Cheviots.

The old ways are important to Mary and Ross. In fact, get Mary going on the ills of modern society and technology, and you'll enjoy a long conversation by the fire. In our interview Friday, she started with "the lies we've been told."

"Bigger is not better," and "technology is not going to save us," she gave as examples. "It's the bottom line, the profit imperative that's screwed us up." And, "another one of the lies we've been fed: that where we are isn't good enough," she said referring to the former tendency among English-speaking Townshippers to encourage their children to seek a better life elsewhere.

Her own family threw that trend out with the manure. "We're a bit strange in the English community: out of my eight siblings, the one who lives farthest away is in Moe's River [near Compton]." Her mother has 24 grandchildren; all are in the Eastern Townships except one in the Ottawa area. It makes for large family gatherings—"blessed pandemonium."

### Bridge to the future

"It's my grandkids that keep me awake," Mary, 60, said about her worries for their future in today's world.

With just six acres of land, her dream for her farm isn't about leaving it to her kids and grandkids, but rather leaving them with her self-reliance knowledge and values.

"I don't think technology is going to save farming," she said. Knowing how to

do things simply and on your own will.

"We're the bridge generation," she said of her and Ross. "We can remember those skills and try and teach those things to our grandchildren."

"The goal is to keep some of the old ways alive."

Ross built his own stock trailer for the farm, and he and Mary started out transporting lambs to the auction barn in Saint Hyacinthe four times a year.

They sold a few to "freezer customers" early on as well. And then the direct sales started to grow. "There was a big uptick last year and this year—a way increase in customers this year," Mary said, noting the various pandemic symptoms that led people to buy more locally. Now she and Ross go to the auction barn just once a year.

"This idea of—whatever we're up to now: 40 customers or something—the face to face, knowing who's putting our meat at the table...that's part of our paycheque, that's part of why I do it."

Mary's own table, dining room, kitchen, house, farmyard, all breathe the self-reliance, do-it-yourself ethics of their caretakers.

They started building the house in September 1988 and moved in in June 1989. "We built every bit of it by hand," she said, starting with the pine lumber Mary's brothers and Ross milled from Francis Loomis's farm in Waterville—with a portable, PTO-driven lumber mill they also built themselves.

"This is more than a house. It would be very hard for me to move out," Mary admitted only a few sips of coffee after complaining about the kitchen.

"It's 33 years, and my kitchen's never been finished. Drives me nuts!" she said with a smile.

Scott Stevenson farms and writes at his home in Newport, Quebec. He reports on Townships' farmers biweekly for Brome County News and reviews the farm news biweekly for The Record.

# Brome-Missisquoi CLD

CONT'D FROM PAGE 3

six economic poles rather than a single large city center, the area of the territory and the extent of its road network or the congestion generated by the high traffic in tourist areas.

In response to the challenges of manpower and competitiveness, a large number of Bromisque companies need

to review their business model. Too few companies have embarked on a digital shift, whether it is the digitization of their services, the automation of their manufacture, the robotization of their production or further integration of cybersecurity measures. The perception of the majority of entrepreneurs with regard to different concepts prevent optimization of organizational practices.

The RDV event, which will take place in March 2022, will bring together the economic players and elected representatives of the region with a common ambition: to highlight concrete solutions to meet the current challenges experienced by businesses and people in our region.

More details are to come regarding the initiative and the RDV meeting in Brome-Missisquoi.

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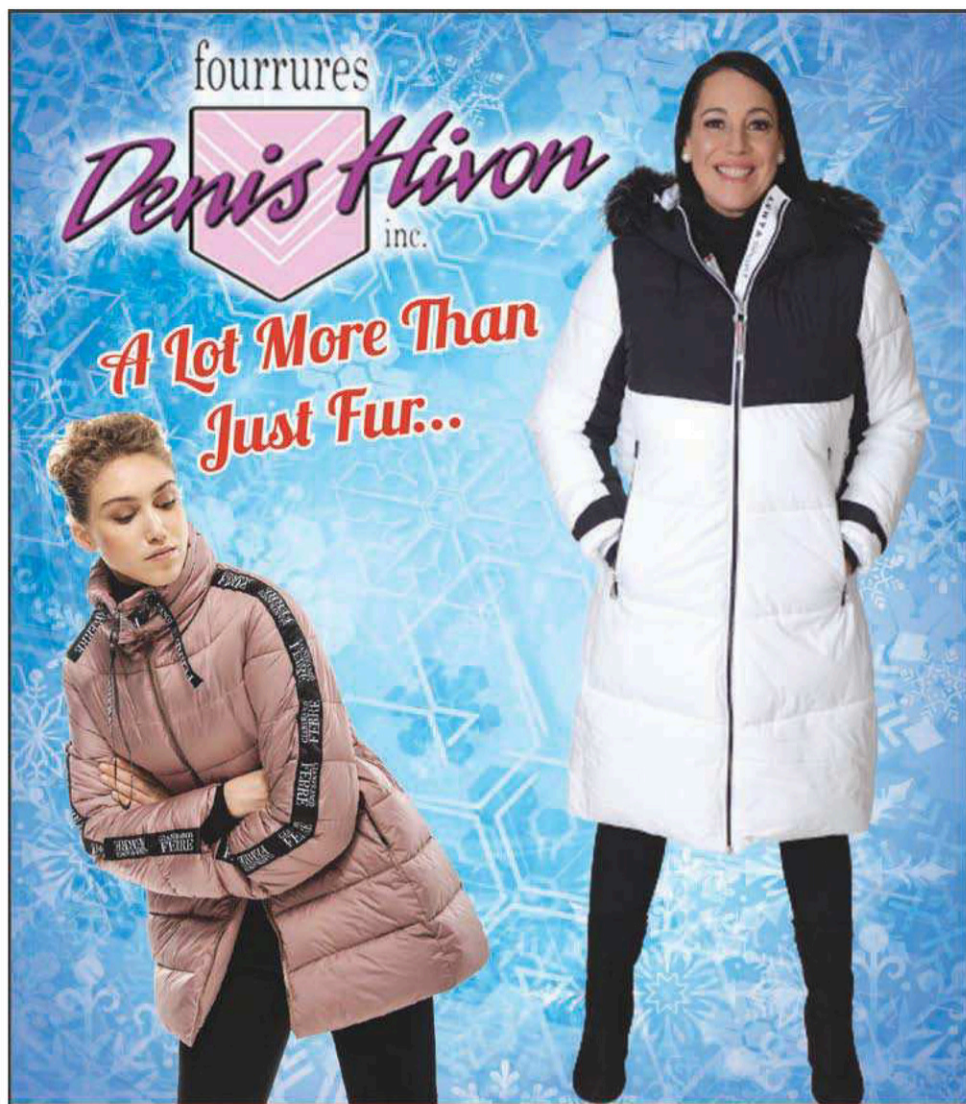
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# Notice of Appointment

**Margerie Légaré**  
General Manager



Catherine Allen-Dénommmé, Chair of the Caisse de Brome-Missisquoi, and Manon Bessette, Chair of the Caisse Desjardins de Waterloo, are pleased to announce the appointment of Margerie Légaré to the role of general manager of the Caisse de Brome-Missisquoi, effective November 15, 2021.

Margerie will continue to serve as general manager of the Caisse Desjardins de Waterloo. She'll also become the general manager of the new Caisse Desjardins de la Porte-des-Cantons-de-l'Est, which will open in January 2022.

Margerie has been with Desjardins Group for close to 35 years. In addition to her wealth of experience, she's well known for being people-focused, committed to the community and an inspiring leader.

« We're delighted to welcome Margerie to the team. With her expertise in business development and performance management, not to mention her engaging leadership style, she'll give our team the support they need within our organization. »

explains Catherine Allen-Dénommmé.



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# The Quilting Posse and Quilts for Survivors

The Quilting Posse is a group of young-ish women who love to quilt. We're not your typical quilting circle. No afternoon tea and scones for us, more like beer and pizza. We are loud, loving, and caring. We do what we love and love what we do.

The Posse members are modern-day do-gooders. We try to meet on a haphazardly regular basis. Like many, this past year and a half has been hard on our little group, but we persevered. It helps that we keep each others' spirits up with our boisterousness and our never-ending ideas. It usually starts with one of us getting an idea. We run with it and within an hour or two we have the quilt all mapped out. What colours to use, the block designs, who's doing what and by when. Thank goodness for Messenger!

The Posse members are proud Canadians. Flag waving on July 1st kind of proud. So, when we heard about the heartbreaking news of the children's bodies found at the Residential School out west, we were shocked. Shocked and appalled like the rest of Canada.

Quilts for Survivors is a Facebook group created by Vanessa Génier in Timmins, Ontario in memory of all the small voices that were lost. In June Vanessa started by asking for quilt blocks

that she and her friends would sew into quilts to be given to Residential School survivors. She had hoped to make 18 quilts, but once the word got out, the outpouring of donated blocks, tops, fabric, and completed quilts began. To date over 630 quilts have been gifted to former Residential School "students". Young Native boys and girls who were stolen from their families and given no choice but to attend these hell holes.

One Posse member stumbled upon Vanessa's Facebook post, and we immediately got involved. Within weeks we had the blocks created, sewn together and off to get quilted by another talented member of our group.

Our quilt was gifted to Evelyn, who attended St-Paul's Lebret Residential School, in the Qu'appelle Valley, from 1952 to 1962. In Evelyn's words, "It was a lonely place. No visits from family. No love or hugs. We were raised without love and no cultural guidance. We were told our culture was demonic. Or witchcraft. We were told we would go to hell doing those demonic practices. Our language was never taught, we were punished if we were caught speaking it. When you lose your language, you lose all contact with the elders. You no longer understand the history and the lessons

## Avante December Newsletter

Registration remains a must, as spaces are limited to 10 participants for in-person activities, by calling 450-248-0530 or by email: avanteregister@gmail.com.

Please note that if you register after the recommended date, your message may not be received in time for the activity. Workshops & activities with low registration are subject to cancellation.

Avante is an essential service, therefore, vaccination passports will not be required to attend any of our activities.

**CHRISTMAS DINNER IN A BOX**  
With the holiday season upon us, we are accepting donations of potatoes, boxed stuffing, canned veggies, cranberries, gravy, and fruit cocktail to be given to local families so they too can enjoy a traditional Christmas dinner. Please drop off your donations at the centre any time before December 3.

**TOURTIÈRE FUNDRAISER**  
What's better than homemade tourtières and supporting your local women's centre? Absolutely nothing. Don't delay, order yours today!! Only 15\$ each! Quantities are limited - the Quality is not! Pick up your pies freshly made on December 10<sup>th</sup> between 2 and 6, or freshly frozen during the week of the 13<sup>th</sup>.

**WIDOWS GROUP**  
The support group for widows is meeting on Monday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. This group is open to any widow who would like to be among other women sharing similar experiences and

emotions. This event will take place in Knowlton at the Lac-Brome Community Centre located at 270 Rue Victoria, Knowlton, QC J0E 1V0. Please register by December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**CHRISTMAS COOKIES**  
Do you ever know what to get that person who has it all? Or the hard-to-shop-for?? Sign up for our Cookie making night on Tuesday, December 7 at 6 p.m. Decorated, original and the perfect gift. Please register by December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**CHRISTMAS DIY:**  
Hand-painted Christmas ornaments  
Crafty Cathy is at it again. Join her on Monday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. to tap into your creative juices and paint yourself an ornament or two. This event will take place in Knowlton at the Lac-Brome Community Centre located at 270 Rue Victoria, Knowlton, QC J0E 1V0. Please register by December 9<sup>th</sup>.

Avante will be closing for the holidays on Friday December 17 until Tuesday, January 4<sup>th</sup>  
We want to remind you that we are always here for you for counselling, resources, referrals, etc. Feel free to stop by at anytime. We are available to meet with you in-person at the centre (9, rue de la Rivière, Bedford) or by phone 450-248-0530.

Avante Women's Centre welcomes English-speaking women from all walks of life in Brome-Missisquoi and supports them to reach their full potential through educational and informational programs and services and collective action for social change.



the elders teach. You need roles models to be a loving parent. We did not have that guidance." Evelyn is from the White Bear First Nations, now living in Regina and is a retired schoolteacher. After having put herself through university and graduating at forty years old, with four kids at home, she went on to teach elementary school for 25 years. Evelyn described her quilt as a treasure and a truly

healing quilt. This is a lovely labour of love hoping this story will inspire other quilters to donate to a great cause to bring a small amount of comfort to those that truly need it. In honour of residential school survivors and in memory of those who did not.

Submitted by Gayl Rhicard

## Ben in Focus: Last dip before we leave!



# Upgrading your equipment



## BEHIND THE LENS

DARREN MURPHY

Like anything else, when you decide to take the plunge into photography it is wise to invest in the very basic equipment. The thought process being, if you really take a liking to this new venture, you can always upgrade when your budget allows. When I first started, I bought a basic camera package from Canon. It was a Canon 20D camera, which came with a 17-85 lens. As I took to my new hobby (like a duck to water), I upgraded and bought a 300mm lens for a decent price. It was a cheaper version of a true Canon 300 lens, but worked perfectly for me in those early days. I've mentioned this before, it is more beneficial to invest in a decent camera but spend extra on a better lens. Especially in wildlife photography where the further away from the subject you are, the less chance of scaring the bird or animal. There is nothing more

frustrating than seeing a subject in the perfect setting, only to scare it into fleeing as you try to get closer. So, at this stage of the game you have decided you love nature photography and you want to up your game. The first step is expanding your kit bag. Again, the first step would be to invest in a 300mm telephoto lens. Or, if your financial means allows, a 400, 500 or 600mm lens. These last three don't come cheap, but if you've found a way to make income from your new photography venture then by all means full steam ahead. The advantage with these lenses is they give you a powerful magnification factor. This reduces your optical distance between you and your subject, making the subject appear larger in the frame. I vividly remember the first time I took a picture of a Great Gray Owl with my new 400 lens. The image was so close and so sharp, all the tiny feathers on its facial disc were visible. There is an alternative for those who simply cannot afford an upgrade. Use a teleconverter with one of your shorter lenses. If you're currently using a 200mm lens, then a 2X teleconverter will bring you to a 400mm magnification. With a 300mm lens, your teleconverter will increase your focal length to 600mm. These teleconverters can be purchased for around \$300-500 dollars. One thing to note, when you add a teleconverter to your lens although you effectively increase the focal length, the minimum focusing distance remains the same. There is also a slight



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reduction in image quality, but if you're good at photoshop or Lightroom then these can easily be corrected. Upgrading doesn't stop just at cameras or lenses. As time goes by and your lens collection increases, you'll need a larger camera bag or backpack to transport your new acquisitions. These can be purchased for reasonable prices on Amazon. I have found them to be much cheaper than buying them in actual camera stores. You may want to upgrade to a tripod as opposed to your monopod. Again, these can be purchased at decent prices as well online. Memory cards are a must unless you already have a few that can hold hundreds of images. Sandisk is quite popular and has versions where one card could last you years due to their vast memory capacity. In

the end it all depends on how far you want to dive into the world of nature photography. Like anything else, good equipment is expensive but you can add upgrade at your own pace as your budget allows.

During the past week I've received some messages inquiring about the arrival of the Snowy Owls this winter.

As I mentioned in my article two weeks ago, they have already started to arrive. From all indications it's looking like it may be a banner year. We have confirmed sightings in Lac Deux Montagnes, St-Bethelmy, Mirabel and Dorval. I have no doubt they have touched down in Saint-Hubert as well. Truly looking forward to some day trips this winter!

# Potton group recognized for preserving unique round barn

By Taylor McClure  
Special to Brome County News

The committee responsible for La place de la Grange-Ronde in Potton has been recognized by Action patrimoine as the recipient of its prestigious Remarkable Project-Preservation award for its preservation of Mansonville's round barn. Along with the award, the group also received a grant from the MRC to update the round barn's facilities. The Potton Municipal Volunteer Group (GBMP) extends back to 2010 when it was responsible for taking care of Potton's hiking trails, its unique covered bridge, and its historically significant round barn. With a lot of work under its belt, the group shifted its focus to saving the round barn, a unique structure with only a handful left standing in the Eastern Townships. GBMP's efforts have finally been recognized and they have helped ensure the survival of a space that will be beneficial for the local community.

"The volunteer committee was created by Mayor Jacques Marcoux because the barn was too big a job for municipality to take over," said Edith Smeesters, volunteer on the committee. "We thought it wasn't so complicated, we just needed to change the foundation of the barn. We had volunteer architects that evaluated the job and it was kind of at a standstill until 2018 when we finally got a big grant from Heritage Canada of \$210,000."

Work was done on the round barn in 2011 and 2012, but it continued to deteriorate and the group was dependent on the grant. "There was expertise done by an engineer to see if the barn was safe and they put some new metal posts in the basement in the stables and some cables to bring it back to its shape. It was kind of safe for a few years until 2017 when the inspector said we can't enter that barn anymore."

With the grant from Heritage Canada, the group got to work. "We started in late October-November 2018 and that winter was just awful, but we had to do the job before the spring because there was a leftover budget. The cost was rising because of the weather and we had to heat the place."

GBMP decided to seek out other donors to support its initiatives and by the end of 2019 had raised over a million

dollars. "We raised money from the MRC, Caisse Desjardins, and big donors in the area. We had ten donors give between \$20,000 and \$50,000."

With that, they lifted the barn, excavated the entire cement foundation using steel beams, and brought the barn back to its original round shape. "The barn was twisted and it was bending on one side so it was a real chance to put it straight again without breaking everything. That was the main job and now it's safe. What remains to be done now, is the fire exits. It's a public building now and you need fire exits and handicap access too. We need toilettes inside."

Luckily, the group received a grant from the MRC totalling \$49,950 to help complete the round barn's renovations. "Last year we had a positive answer from MRC to do fire exits and bathrooms and things like that, but contractors were just not available and it was just crazy the prices of materials were skyrocketing."

The roof and the basement also need a little TLC to allow the space to thrive. "We finally managed to open it for the last two years with some existing exhibitions, but the basement is not being used at all. That could be used for community events, but we need to see what will happen."

After years of hard work and volunteers nearing retirement, the final touches to La place de la Grange-Ronde are being taken over by the town. "We are very glad the town is taking over and I hope they do what is for the best because we need new energy."

Despite no longer spearheading the project, GBMP is proud of its achievements



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and for being recognized by Action Patrimoine. "We are very proud because there were lots of projects. In our category, there were 10 projects. There were lots of other candidates and prestigious ones. What really put the balance to our side was that it was a volunteer project."



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