

No sign of community spread so far for Omicron in Quebec

By Gordon Lambie

Quebec's provincial institute of public health published its analysis of the new Omicron variant on Monday, stating that there is no indication that the new virus strain is experiencing community transmission in the province at this time. Despite the detection of a first case in a returning traveller last week, the INSPQ data shows no sign of any additional spread so far.

Omicron is considered to be a variant of concern because of the number of mutations it has compared to the original strain of the virus that was detected, some of which have been associated with an increased likelihood of infection and increased resistance to immune response. The INSPQ report notes, however, that there is not yet enough reliable data on the new variant to confirm either of these possibilities.

There were 502 new cases of COVID-19 reported in the Eastern Townships over the weekend, bringing the total number of cases in the region since the start of the pandemic to 21,128, with 1,399 active cases. Close to half of those new cases were in Sherbrooke, where

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Joffre Bridge encampment comes down



GEOFF AGOMBAR

By Geoff Agombar
Local Journalism Initiative

Starting around 9 a.m. Monday morning, city trucks and workers began their work of dismantling and carting away the encampment under Joffre Bridge in Sherbrooke.

As rain fell throughout the day, camp residents, media cameras, police, neighbours, locals, and street social workers cycled through and watched

and talked as the workers pulled down walls and loaded the pieces into trucks. Tents were emptied into piles, piles were dumped onto flattened tents, and dragged across to trucks and trailers as the camp slowly disappeared.

Few camp residents remain. Those who have come to watch the camp come down say they have found a spot in an apartment. Or, they will go back to camping in the woods across the river. Or, back to sleeping on cardboard

in an underground parking lot nearby. Or, to a squat. Or, they haven't decided yet but probably to the shelter tonight so they can start warm and showered tomorrow as they scout their next spot to camp out.

By mid-afternoon, the street-side half of the camp is gone, except for one of the firepit cans which was sunk several feet into the ground. That will require more than elbow grease to

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Weather

TODAY:
A MIX OF SUN
AND CLOUDS

HIGH -4
LOW -12

WEDNESDAY:
SCATTERED
FLURRIES

HIGH -4
LOW -8

THURSDAY:
CLOUDY WITH
SUNNY BREAKS

HIGH -3
LOW -6

FRIDAY:
SCATTERED
FLURRIES

HIGH 4
LOW 1

SATURDAY:
LIGHT RAIN

HIGH 9
LOW 1

It's ok not to be ok this season



DISHPAN HANDS

SHEILA QUINN

The first week of December I try to remember to dedicate this column to those of you who are not looking forward to the holiday season. Sometimes the reasons are old, and it's been a while since it felt right, sometimes the reasons are new, or unexpected even, sometimes it isn't that you don't want to celebrate, it's just that you don't know how, and maybe this year it's because there is a presence that is missing in the strange meeting of dark and light of this time of year.

When those of you 9-5'ing it experience wakings and returnings in the wet and dark. It's cozy, but man it also takes a toll as you squint down the road to and from your destinations, wipers rubbing back and forth, in what feels like such long nights.

There could be so many reasons that the holidays are a bit rough this year, and it's okay to shine a light on those cracks - Leonard Cohen sang that 'there is a crack in everything, that's how the light gets in', and sometimes we can't quite find the power to shine, but we can let a little of it in.

Maybe you've been working in an industry hit hard by COVID and it feels like things never stop; and as a result it's hard to imagine relaxing and enjoying almost anything these days. Maybe responsibility is heavy, and you feel like you're carrying everyone like a giant stack of presents, and it keeps wobbling, and you know a little how Atlas felt, holding up the world.

Maybe you're worried about your health, and you're not quite sure what to do. Maybe you've kind of been avoiding what you know you

need to do. Maybe it's tough to find the motivation to do what you know you have to do. Maybe you look in the mirror sometimes and think of all of these things, and it just feels a little bit like being really tired, or that it is hard in ways you can't quite explain.

Maybe you have moved, and, well, it doesn't feel quite the same. And you're trying to make the best of it, but the walls are different and the smells are different, and the people are different, and you feel a bit like your Christmas compass is off, because the rituals are also different.

Maybe you had a really upsetting experience with someone you were close to, and it shifted the definition of who the two of you are together. Maybe that has cast a shadow over what is usually shared and celebratory, and you aren't sure you want to share it with them, because you might sort of want to kick them in the pants. (NOTE: Don't kick them in the pants.)

Maybe you lost a pet. Like lost them and don't know where they are, or they had to live with someone else, or lost them and you were there with them when it happened, and perhaps it was sudden or maybe it was planned and no matter which of those it is, that is hard, because the purity of a pet's strange love or hyper love, or their own weird brand of love was for you, and that grief is a challenge.

Maybe you lost a job. And it has made the already rather whack nature of the holidays worrisome in terms of the expectations of those around you - you're not sure how to get things under the tree or what is going to happen next, and perhaps you weren't there long, or maybe you were there for a while, and that part of you doesn't have time to settle as the time approaches.

Maybe someone won't be there this year and your heart just doesn't feel right about it, even if they might be happily adventuring in a way they need to right now. Maybe you already feel homesick for them.

Maybe you just feel funny. Like funny in that you want to enjoy it, but you're not sure where to get that fire lit inside, where the chestnuts will roast in the warmth of your heart (chestnuts - you get it?), where you've felt that shift that Scrooge does when that third

and final ghosts scares the living nightlights out of him and snaps him out of his greed. You sort of want the ghosts around, it would at least make things interesting.

Maybe some big changes happened this year, and boy, even though there are some really good things about the transition, it still tore a strip off of you. Perhaps you're a bit worn out from all of the newness. Maybe you would just like a little more of the familiar.

It's okay to feel all of these things, any of these things.

It's okay to pine. It's okay to worry. It's okay to hurt. It's okay to tell uncomfortable truths. It's okay to walk the elephants in the room once in a while (it stops them from pooping on the couch). It's okay to feel heartache and it's okay to not know how to find the energy to rally around and make the season bright, especially as we wonder what the new rules will be.

But somewhere in there, there is a little bit of light. Somewhere there is a little Cindy Lou Who, a little tiny ray, an errant silver sheen that is glinting on the ceiling, and maybe within it there is a thread for you to tug on gently, and maybe that thread will start a tiny bit of undoing that might relieve some of that pressure you are experiencing.

This is the Blue Christmas Edition of Dishpan Hands, and it is dedicated to you.

As we go into these weeks that seem like a whirlwind of things that most of us struggling to really completely embrace, here's to the tiny, almost invisible threads - but oh, there it is.

Grasp it, between your finger and thumb. Know that for this moment you're not thinking about the thing that has been weighing so heavy.

Give it a pull. It's going to be okay, even if it doesn't feel okay.

(And if you really don't feel okay, it's okay to call 811, and to say you need to talk to someone, because there is something bothering you, and a person on the other end of the line will listen. There are people who speak English as well.)

Let's start with a wish now. A wish for tiny threads that undo what they are supposed to, and that in those slivers of light, there is hope.

Ben by Daniel Shelton



Local News

There were 76 schools in the Eastern Townships on the province's list of schools with at least one case of Covid within the last 14 days, as of last Friday.

Sherbrooke Police Briefs

Record Staff

Sherbrooke Police (SPS) are advising the public that someone is stealing catalytic converters, primarily in the Rock-Forest and St-Elie sectors. No specific model of vehicle is being targeted, but a large number of complaints have been filed in recent weeks.

A 40-year-old man recently received three fines for refusing to wear a mask inside of the Dépanneur 4 saisons in Fleurimont. The fines were issued after

an employee called the police.

The mother of an 11-month-old baby was fined for leaving her child unsupervised in a car. The baby was spotted by a passerby, who then called the police. The responding officers then removed the uninjured child from the unlocked car. The fine stems from the fact that it is a violation of Quebec's highway safety code to leave a child under the age of seven unsupervised in a vehicle.

With the coming of the holiday season, The SPS have also started to

carry out roadblocks to check for drivers under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Over the weekend 300 vehicles were stopped by the police, but no arrests were made. The SPS is reminding the public to take advantage of taxi services, designated drivers, and the Operation Nez Rouge drive-home service as positive alternatives to drinking and driving.

The Police are also seeking the public's help in identifying two suspects in an early morning break in at the Dépanneur on St-Elie Road in the middle of last month. According

to information provided by the SPS, a significant number of cigarettes were stolen from the store just after 3 a.m. on Nov. 15. One of the two suspects sought, who committed the break-in and theft, was wearing a red hoodie and red running shoes, pale blue jeans, blue surgical gloves, a black balaclava and a Halloween mask. The other remained behind in the vehicle.

Anyone who may have information about the break-in is encouraged to contact agent Vicky Simard at 819-823-8000, extension 4364.

School bus tips over in Stukely-Sud

Record Staff

A school bus slid off the road on Chemin Lefebvre in Stukely-Sud Monday morning, as road conditions were less than ideal for motorists in Quebec following the province's first significant snowfall of the winter season.

According to the Sûreté du Québec (SQ), there were a dozen students on the bus at the time of the accident,

however, there were no serious injuries when officers arrived at the scene. An SQ communications officer could not confirm where the bus was heading on Monday.

There was at least one police cruiser to check in on the situation, but the communications officer did not know how many officers were there at the scene. The cruiser also slid off the road, and a towing operation was underway within the hour.

King Street work to slow traffic this week

Record Staff

There is work planned this week that will cause traffic disruptions on both the east and west ends of King Street in Sherbrooke.

Beginning Tuesday, Dec 7 at 8 a.m. and lasting until the end of the day on Thursday, King Street East will see slow-downs between Raby and des Rocheuses street as work is done on the surfacing of the roadway. Although work will only be done on one section

of road at a time, it will gradually move along the street over the course of the week.

Beginning on Wednesday, Dec. 8, at 8:30 a.m. work will be taking place between Lomas and Don Bosco Streets on King West. Although the work being done will not involve excavation, one of the westbound lanes will be closed to traffic at various points along the route until Friday afternoon. This work is also expected to impact traffic circulation on Don Bosco itself.

New accelerated nursing assistant training grants available

Record Staff

In an effort to meet the current labour shortage in the healthcare network, new training programs are available in the Estrie region. Training programs are available to become a nursing assistant or an administrative officer. Acceptance into either program is accompanied by a scholarship.

The 14-month training program is being offered to train 132 new nursing assistants in the Estrie region. It will begin on Jan. 17, 2022 and will allow candidates to receive a \$20,000

scholarship to study. Interested candidates have until Dec. 20, 2021 to register through the website www.admissionfp.com.

Training is offered at the following four vocational training centres:

Centre régional intégré de formation (CRIF) (Granby);

Centre de formation professionnelle 24-Juin (Sherbrooke);

Lennoxville Vocational Training Centre (Sherbrooke);

Centre de formation professionnelle le Granit (Lac-Mégantic).

To meet the conditions of the

bursary, candidates must commit to working full-time as a nursing assistant at the CIUSSS de l'Estrie - CHUS for two years after the training.

There are also 186 scholarships of \$4,000 available for training as an administrative officer.

Individuals wishing to obtain this 240-hour certificate of professional studies can register until March 6, 2022, 4 p.m. at www.admissionfp.com. The first course will begin at the end of January 2022.

The courses are offered in all the professional training centres in the

CIUSSS de l'Estrie - CHUS territory (Coaticook, Cowansville, Val-des-Sources, East Angus, Granby, Lac-Mégantic, Magog, Sherbrooke and Windsor). It is possible to take the course in English in certain centres.

To meet the conditions of the bursary, candidates must commit to working full-time as an administrative officer for the CIUSSS de l'Estrie - CHUS for one year after the training.

At the end of these accelerated training programs, a guaranteed long-term job at CIUSSS de l'Estrie - CHUS awaits the trainees.

Covid

CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

the rate of transmission remained high compared to the provincial average, but well below that of the Des Sources region.

There were 17 people hospitalised in the region on Monday, eight of whom were in intensive care.

According to breakdown of new cases by age group for the week of Nov. 28 to Dec. 4, there were 1,122 new cases reported overall, at an average of

about 160 new cases per day. Of that total, 377 were in children aged 5-11, which is more than twice the number in any other single category.

Reflecting the ongoing concentration of cases in the younger population, the closure of the Desranleau School in Sherbrooke that was announced last week was extended on Monday, with the local school service centre indicating that more time is needed to help control

the spread of the virus within the school community. A return to class is now expected at the school for Dec 13.

There were 76 schools in the Eastern Townships on the province's list of schools with at least one case of Covid within the last 14 days, as of last Friday.

The Province of Québec reported 1,189 new cases of COVID-19 on Monday, bringing the total number of people infected to 455,825, with 10,272 active cases.

There were two new deaths recorded, for a total of 11,589 since the start of the pandemic. The number of hospitalizations increased to 226, an increase of seven compared to the previous day. The number of people in intensive care also increased, reaching 62.

Just over 25 per cent of children 5-11 in the Townships had received a first dose of vaccine as of Monday, just slightly behind the provincial rate of 28 per cent.

EDITORIAL

We can reduce sensational, graphic reporting of femicide and stop suggesting any victim's actions, behaviours or lifestyles contributed to their deaths.

Montréal Massacre anniversary: The media must play a key role in fighting femicide

Jordan Fairbairn

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Holding officials to account

Public health efforts around the COVID-19 pandemic have illustrated the importance of clear messaging, prioritizing expert voices and holding political leaders and social institutions to account to save lives.

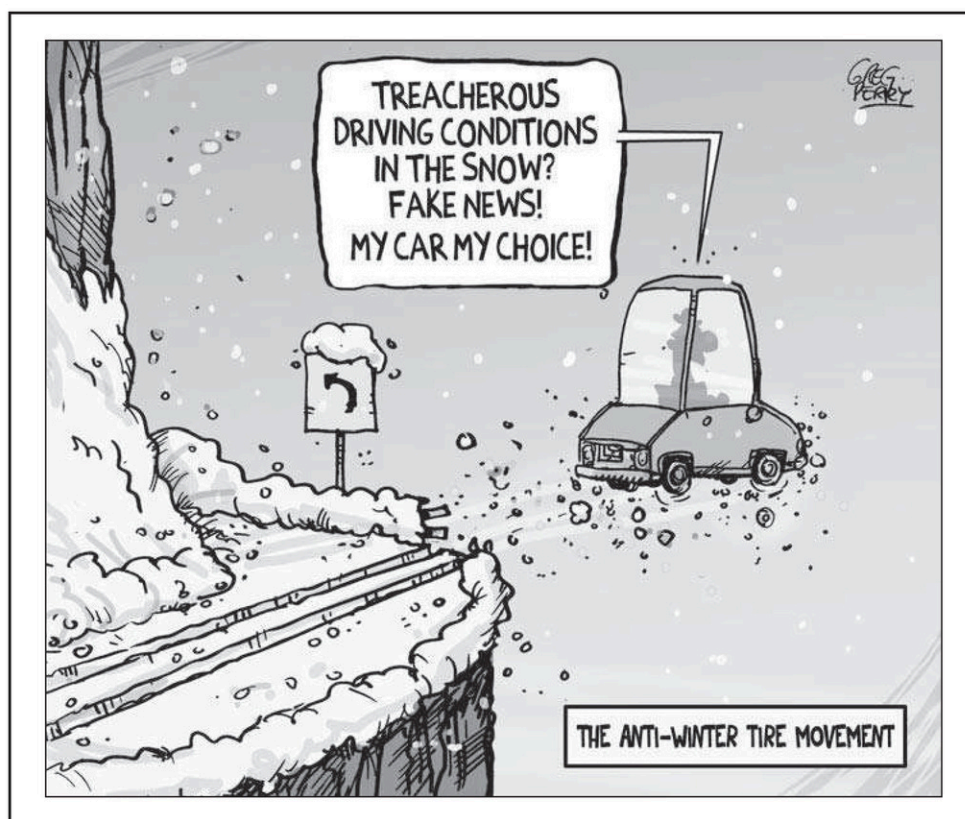
As these efforts continue, we once again mark Dec. 6, the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women, and reflect on the ongoing pandemic of male violence that continues to take the lives of women and girls worldwide.

Our work at the Canadian Femicide Observatory for Justice and Accountability keeps track of this extreme form of sex/gender-related violence. As is so evident with the COVID-19 pandemic, the media play a critical role in informing us about how threats are defined, what aspects to pay attention to and how to deal with a given problem.

In short, the media frame the problem and suggest the solutions. As such, the media can be a key mechanism for primary prevention, but only if the problem is represented accurately.

In covering femicide, media have a leading role, not only in awareness and education generally, but in actively shaping the construction of attitudes and beliefs that can help prevention efforts.

In contrast, harmful representations include those that portray these killings as isolated or individualized events, focus on victim behaviours to suggest (implicitly or explicitly) that they were to blame for their own death or marginalizing certain groups based on race, religion, socio-economic class, sex-trade involvement, sexual orientation and other factors.



There is also the matter of who isn't represented at all. The "missing white girl syndrome" underscores that white, usually class-privileged victims receive copious amounts of media coverage while missing and murdered Indigenous, Black and other racialized women and girls are excluded from large-scale societal attention. Therefore, some women and girls remain invisible in life and death.

Media reporting on femicide is key. How reporters frame femicides is therefore critical for accurately informing the public. Media coverage of femicide has the potential to connect it to broader issues related to violence against women, thereby educating the public about these crimes, their broader societal causes, consequences and implications.

This media coverage might include terminology such as femicide, statistics on the number of women killed by intimate partners, domestic violence resources or new expert sources who are more qualified to speak on femicide, including front-line service providers, advocates and researchers.

In addition to providing more in-depth, empirically supported context about femicide, this type of coverage raises public awareness about the issue. It reports on femicides not as isolated incidents but more directly highlights community and societal solutions.

That can include funding services that help victims of violence,

prevention education, legal reform and cultural change, such as targeting the attitudes that support or normalize violence against women.

As we remember those women and girls killed by violence in Canada, we can critically reflect on how their stories are told and how the media educate us about their deaths. We can move beyond relying on police narratives and cultural framings about femicide, drawing from the experiences and expertise of survivors and those who have lost loved ones to violence.

We can reduce sensational, graphic reporting of femicide and stop suggesting any victim's actions, behaviours or lifestyles contributed to their deaths.

Femicide is a tragic loss of life. It is the most extreme act of violence against women, a human rights violation and part of a public health crisis. An accurate representation of this crime by the media must include perspectives that address all three of these areas.

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Homeless encampment

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remove.

A few camp residents and activists are sat on a stack of palettes near the last smoking trash can. The last bag of donated bread loaves sits unattended. Someone offers hot tea.

Around 1 p.m., Mayor Évelyne Beaudin arrives for a press conference. The cameras and microphones pull in tight, ringed by officers, as work on the bottom half of the site continues unabated.

Beaudin says maintaining the link between people from the camp and community organizations will be a priority. "People who leave here and don't go to the Partage Saint-François, where have they gone? How can we be sure they have found themselves in a situation that is safe for them? Then, can we ease them into community resources where they can access solutions for the different problems they are experiencing?"

Beaudin notes the deep generosity of Sherbrooke residents evidenced in recent weeks, but she says donations directly to the camp have enabled an accumulation of risks. "When people receive food directly at the camp, they don't go to the Partage or the Chaudronné for their food support and they are deprived of a contact with a front-line intervener."

Beaudin says local community organizations need the support of the city and residents alike and

encourages everyone to channel their holiday giving through the relevant organizations. "As the holidays approach, we know people want to think of the needs of others who are less privileged, who have fewer opportunities in life. But the best way to help these people is always to go through those who have the expertise," says Beaudin.

André, who sleeps at the Partage Saint-François shelter but keeps warm through the day at the camp, steps forward to call on the mayor by her first name, asking if she remembers him from two days ago when they sat together by the fire.

"You told me there would be no bulldozer," André says and Beaudin agrees. "Was that just a play on words? Because, look!" as he gestures to the bare lot. "It's all gone."

"I am saddened," André adds. "I'm saddened for all the friends who are going to be dislodged, relocated. What is your solution, Évelyne?"

Beaudin speaks of supporting Partage Saint-François and all the community organizations, but André's question is more immediate. "Yes, but you know there won't be any solutions. A certain number of people will be admitted, but the others? What will be done about that? I have been smooth, you know, I have been cool, but come on... Évelyne, I know you're going to do everything you can, but it's too late."

The mayor stays for several minutes after to listen to an activist who

wants to develop his network to donate essential goods directly to the homeless and eventually open a 24-hour drop-in centre.

Beaudin also talks to a camp resident who says they will go to the woods across the river now that the camp has closed. He wants to know what driving people from tents in the camp to tents by the river does to reduce the risk of dying from cold. The conversation quickly steers into a discussion about why the Partage Saint-François has a rule against bringing in cellphones and whether people get kicked out until the next night if they step outside to use their phone.

As the mayor takes her leave, a member of her communications team is pressed on a core implication of the camp resident's question: Why is an emergency service like a shelter the primary response to a chronic issue like long-term homelessness? After stressing that homelessness is an issue that exists since long before the camp and will continue after, the conversation briefly dips into the subject of social housing and hints of work to come before the mayor and entourage disappear.

The work of clearing the camp continues as the circle of police and city workers and fireman slowly progresses toward the back row. At some point, all the public, street social workers and friends retreat to the cleared section as the last four, then three, then two residents gather

in tents encircled by palettes. Some relatively muted argument ensues, but it seems unlikely that tensions would boil over.

A woman arrives and breaks into sobs when she sees what was likely her corner of the camp has already been dismantled. Two people follow her to a nearby spot out of the rain to talk.

Gabriel Pallotta of the Table d'itinérance de Sherbrooke spent the full day at the site. He feels that the organizations in his association are working in a good direction but recognizes that the camp story shows they are behind in the work that must be done now.

In the short term, he wants to work with his organizations that have been in direct contact with the camp residents to do their best to get some sense of where people have gone if they have not gone to a shelter and reconnect with anyone who they have lost contact with. Over the longer term, he wants to deepen the communication and coordination between organizations.

Pallotta seems reflective as he watches the dismantling of the camp these people built for themselves. "I hope people understand that the problem is not that there are camps. But, for some people, this does respond directly to their needs. If this experience is repeated, surely there are ways to do something that doesn't have to come to this."

Moving forward



DIAN COHEN

When I was a kid in 1940s Winnipeg, going to the beach in the summer was a long-awaited treat. There were lots of beaches to choose from—Bird's Hill, Gimli, Grand and Winnipeg were just an hour's drive away. Winnipeg Beach was not my favorite because it had a roller-coaster, and even the thought of it made me nauseous.

I've had that same sick feeling these past two years on the metaphorical COVID rollercoaster. One week we're basking in a fresh sense of recovery and the potential for a return to normalcy and the next we face the ghastly prospect of yet more lockdowns, closed borders and anxious consumers.

It's hard to say what the facts are because the virus has changed

everything. It's still the headline news, but the broad measure of employment is back to the pre-pandemic trend and job creation statistics for November were much higher than expected. We seem not to want to accept this because our sense is that the economy is totally out of whack. Part of our discomfort with contradictory news may be because people are classified differently compared to before the pandemic. Or it may be that the way the economy is measured doesn't reflect what's happening on the ground.

Statistics Canada is our national statistical office. The Government of Canada created it 50 years ago to produce statistics to help better understand Canada, its population, resources, economy, society, and culture. Interestingly, StatCan has acknowledged how much the pandemic has interfered with how its statistics are designed and are being interpreted. Statisticians have been surveying different segments of the population in an effort to understand how much and how permanently the virus and its many descendants may have changed how we understand the economy to work. Quoting from the StatCan website, "...as the recovery unfolds, Statistics Canada continues to report on its impacts on specific populations within Canada. From the beginning of July to early August, Statistics Canada

conducted the Canadian Survey on Business Conditions to better understand the ongoing effects of the pandemic on businesses and business expectations moving forward."

In one of the latest surveys, dated November 2021, over three-quarters of businesses owned by women, most prevalent in retail and food/accommodations fields indicated that they have an optimistic future outlook over the next 12 months, up from just over two-thirds in the second quarter. Over one-third also expect to face challenges in recruiting skilled employees, slightly higher than all private sector businesses, and that the rising costs of inputs will be an obstacle. This latter expectation about inflation is shared by 40 per cent of all private sector businesses.

Statistics Canada has also launched the Real-time Local Business Conditions Index as an experimental statistic to measure business activity in real time during the pandemic and beyond. The Index tracks business conditions in Calgary, Edmonton, Montreal, Ottawa/Gatineau, Toronto, Vancouver and Winnipeg. To do this in real time, StatCan uses traffic flows, both foot and road traffic. "While it is likely that the rapid expansion on e-commerce and online sales brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic has weakened this correlation, traffic flows are expected

to remain a key determinant of economic performances of commercial districts as well as key determinants of broader economic vitality of a neighbourhood." Every one of these cities show significant increases in business activity since the middle of the pandemic. Montreal, for example, showed an 81 per cent increase in business activity, even though it was very uneven through the whole period of August 2020 to November 2021.

The Americans are having a similar perplexing issue. Their "establishment" statistic for new jobs created in November came in at less than half their expectations. Yet the unemployment rate went down and the number of Americans participating in the labor force rose. The world reacts to the headlines: with all the "breaking news" stories about how bad things are, the price of oil has slumped and the stock market is on a roller coaster of its own.

It's hard not to get caught up in the gloom. I'm pretty sure of two things – first, the economy is going in the right direction and we need a little help to understand it better and then decide on the right policy prescriptions; second, the stock market is wildly overvalued.

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

#NewsMatters: The National Assembly Report

By Raquel Fletcher

Man's death raises concerns over ER closures

Town says death was inevitable but preventable

Quebec's healthcare system is facing a massive labour shortage and the government has either fully or partially closed emergency rooms across the province this fall. Last week, the town of Senneterre said the inevitable – but absolutely preventable – happened as a result of that move: Richard Genest, 65, died after being forced to wait hours to receive urgent care.

His death came after Senneterre had been sounding the alarm about the night-time closure of its emergency room.

Genest came from a large and tight-knit family in Abitibi. His nine brothers and sisters, three children and three grandchildren say he should not have died this way.

"We're all very close, very, very close. And we're all very saddened by this and I don't know if we're going to

be able to overcome it," said Genest's younger sister, Theresa Genest. "If our ER was open, he would have been taken in charge and he would still be alive today."

Last Monday afternoon, Genest started to feel pain in his side. Tuesday night, when the pain had intensified, he called an ambulance. Genest lived within walking distance of the ER in Senneterre, but it has been closing at 4 p.m. since Oct. 18.

Ambulance trips to Val d'Or and Amos

In Genest's case, he also had to wait for an ambulance that was out on another call. His sister explained that when the ambulance finally came, it followed protocol and took him to Val d'Or, 68 kilometres away. However, doctors at that hospital told him he needed to see a specialist in Amos, an additional 70 kilometres.

"When he got to Amos, he got to the elevator and he died in the elevator," Theresa Genest explained.

Opposition parties at the National Assembly were outraged to learn the news.

"We said it months ago that things like this could happen and the government did not listen," Liberal Leader Dominique Anglade said last Thursday.

At first, the government refuted the version of events reported in the media and by Genest's own family.

During Thursday's Question Period, Premier François Legault said that Health Minister Christian Dubé spoke with the CEO of the Abitibi-Témiscamingue CISSS about the case. The CEO told Dubé that "even if the Senneterre ER, which is an ER in a CLSC, had been open, it wouldn't have changed what happened," Legault said.

Dubé told reporters the coroner's office had already examined the case and determined it didn't merit an investigation.

Mayor "shocked" about minister's comments

Senneterre Mayor Nathalie-Ann Pelchat said the town was "shocked" to hear the minister's comments, but relieved when Thursday

afternoon, the coroner announced he would be opening an investigation after all.

"They were waiting for him (in Amos). The operation room was ready. Everyone was there, but he never reached the room," Pelchat said, adding if Genest could have seen a doctor in Senneterre he might have been sent directly to Amos, thus bypassing the hospital in Val d'Or and saving precious time.

For Genest's sister, it's not enough for the coroner to look into her brother's death - she worries other people will die if the Senneterre ER isn't reopened soon.

"We need it for the population because the population is growing old here. And everybody's anxious" she said.

Minister Dubé, however, said he is doing everything he can to reopen emergency rooms, even increasing signing bonuses for nurses in rural areas to \$30,000.

Raquel Fletcher is Global News' National Assembly Reporter



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New Townshippers' Association executive director brings an economic approach

By Michael Boriero



COURTESY

move from being a recipient of policy to actively being involved in creating policies for our own community and [...] find ways to ensure that the English-speaking community can have greater opportunity in Quebec society," she said.

Her vision is to create more opportunities for the English-speaking community, keeping people in the Eastern Townships, and attracting more English-speaking Quebecers to the region. Kolbe wants to be at the table with the government, rather than staying on the outside.

Although she is only a few days on the job, Kolbe is well-aware of the struggles the English-speaking community has experienced with healthcare and social services. It has been exacerbated by the pandemic, she said, but those issues have been around for a long time.

Kolbe wants the English-speaking community to feel more included. There is a severe worker shortage, hurting the province's business community. She hopes to find a way to answer their cries for help by bringing the needs of the English-speaking community to the forefront.

She is confident in the organization's relationship with the Quebec government, too. There is a willingness to work together, which was highlighted when Hunting and Gerald Cutting, the association's president, attended the National Assembly to speak on Bill 96.

"We are first and foremost, as the Townshippers' Association said when they presented in front of the National Assembly, we are Quebecers, we acknowledge that French is a common language, we acknowledge that French is the main language in Quebec," Kolbe said. "But we're looking at how we can find ways and means to ensure the English-speaking community can have greater opportunity in Quebec society, consistent with the policies of Quebec's leadership."

Laura Kolbe was announced as the executive director of the Townshippers' Association on Friday, and she already has plans in motion to introduce a sustainable economic approach to the organization's long-standing mission.

She is taking over from Rachel Hunting, who stepped down from her role as executive director last month after nearly 10 years. While saddened to see Hunting leave her position within the organization, Kolbe eagerly jumped at the opportunity to fill her predecessors shoes.

"I'm very keenly aware of the challenges that our community faces, especially in the face of the oncoming Bill 96, so I wanted to use my skill set, and my background, and my experience to help the Townshippers," said Kolbe, adding she was grateful for the board's support.

She describes herself as a lifelong Townshipper. She moved to the region when she was just five years old, attending elementary and high school in the Eastern Townships. She has always felt connected to the area, even when her studies took her all the way to Toronto.

"I've always had roots here, so I'm a lifelong Townshipper, and like many Townshippers, I left during the post-Bill 101 exodus and came back 10 years later to see that things hadn't changed as much as they should have in a positive degree for Anglophones," she said.

Kolbe moves into the executive director role with an extensive educational and professional background in international business and economic development. She has travelled worldwide, touching foot in 44 countries, to help companies transition to the international market.

She believes her business acumen and strong understanding of linguistic and cultural challenges in Quebec, and across the globe, will help the organization take another step forward in advocating for the English-speaking community in the Townships.

"I'm well-known for my strength in strategic innovation and being an innovative leader, and basically [...] what I intend to add [...] is a sustainable economic approach to the organization's mission of promoting the interests of the English-speaking community," said Kolbe.

Kolbe is introducing what she calls an 'economic lens approach' in an effort to establish the association's capacity to add value to the Quebec economy. She wants to look at how they can contribute to the economic progress of the province, Kolbe explained.

"I'd like to lead our community to

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Québec

Date Book

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2021

Today is the 341st day of 2021 and the 77th day of autumn.

TODAY'S HISTORY: In 1787, Delaware became the first state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.

In 1941, Japan launched a surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, killing 2,403 American soldiers and civilians.

In 1999, the Recording Industry Association of America filed a copyright infringement lawsuit against the online file-sharing service Napster.

In 2002, Iraq denied that it had weapons of mass destruction in a United Nations declaration.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Willa Cather (1873-1947), author; Eli Wallach (1915-2014), actor; Ted Knight (1923-1986), actor; Ellen Burstyn (1932-), actress; Harry Chapin (1942-1981), singer-songwriter; Johnny Bench (1947-), baseball player; Tom Waits (1949-), singer-songwriter; Larry Bird (1956-), basketball player; Jeffrey Wright (1965-), actor; Patrice O'Neal (1969-2011), actor/comedian; Sara Bareilles (1979-), singer-songwriter; Emily Browning (1988-), actress; Nicholas Hoult (1989-), actor.

TODAY'S FACT: Following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, the Senate voted for a war resolution 82-0. The House of Representatives approved the resolution 388-1.

TODAY'S SPORTS: In 2007, home-run record holder Barry Bonds pleaded not guilty to lying to investigators about using performance-enhancing drugs.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "The world is little, people are little, human life is little. There is only one big thing - desire." - Willa Cather, "The Song of the Lark"

TODAY'S NUMBER: 64 - servicemen lost by the Imperial Japanese Navy during the attack on Pearl Harbor on this day in 1941.

TODAY'S MOON: Between new moon (Dec. 4) and first quarter moon (Dec. 10).



A Club Revival

The Covid-19 lockdown that came into effect in the spring of 2020 necessitated the cancellation of regular and special events for the Sherbrooke Snow Shoe Club, as it did for all other similar organizations and society in general. Fortunately, the club had just completed its normal season at the end of February before the effect of the virus became widespread and government restrictions were introduced. The onslaught of the pandemic however, forced the cancellation of the club's annual sugar-on-snow party scheduled for the beginning of April and subsequently all activity for the next year and a half - including the suspension of the club's entire 2020-2021 Season.

During those early months club members and the public at large were preoccupied with basic survival strategies. Staying alive became the main focus of life. The welfare of community organizations was not an immediate concern, though many pondered the impact the pandemic would have over the long run. It was evident that only the strongest institutions would endure the shutdowns and varying restrictions as the weeks turned into months and the months now into years. Many established groups like the SSSC, which owned property and which was consequently faced with the same overhead costs, found it difficult to survive. Costs such as heating, insurance and property taxes continued irrespective of the implications of the virus. These expenses were coupled with the inability to undertake critical fundraising activities for many groups, not the least of which included the SSSC fraternity.

By some twist of good fortune, the snowshoe club had decided that its annual garage sale held in 2019 would be its last. Consequently in the months that followed, the club no longer accepted donations for its popular fundraiser. The clubhouse therefore was essentially empty of wares when the 2020 pandemic took hold. Had the club not made the fateful decision, it would have been burdened with a vast quantity of goods, which it could not sell nor adequately store.

Since the onset of the pandemic, the snowshoe club has experienced a precarious existence. While restricted from meeting as a group, there have been ongoing small-scale activities undertaken by various members, either individually or in groups of two or three. Yard work routines have been maintained, small repairs to the clubhouse roof have been undertaken, and upgrades addressed in the wake of government inspections for fire safety and building structural integrity.

From the perspective of keeping the club membership as a functioning entity, efforts have been made given the government prohibition of gathering en masse. Annual club dues continued to be collected, for example, despite not being able to convene regular meetings or related activities. Also, a concerted effort was made to keep connected with one another by means of occasional phone calls among members. A 'photo-of-the-week' campaign based on club archives was initiated to keep the concept of fraternal comradeship alive and well, lest the club members' presence of mind wane over time.

Fortunately, now in the late fall of 2021 the introduction of effective vaccines over the course of the past half-year has eased somewhat the impact of the virus on society. With the advent of double doses and the relatively high percentage of the population inoculated, community organizations have slowly begun to resume their activities, albeit cautiously. Included among these has been the snowshoe club.

In October, a group of members gathered at the clubhouse in keeping with official guidelines, to ponder the means and frequency by which club members could gather in the immediate future. After assessing the various options, members opted to meet once a month instead of the regular practice of once a week. It was further decided to meet informally for lunch on Saturdays, foregoing for the time being the usual protocols of dress and procedures normally allocated to Wednesday evenings.

The first such gathering was held on the 13th of November in keeping with the usual start date for the annual snowshoe club season. For everyone in attendance, it was a revival of a club that has been a part of local history since 1877, the start of its 145th season. On this occasion the meal was not catered by the club's in-house chef, but relegated to a large 'take-out' order from a city-based food service establishment. It was not a meeting in the regular sense, just a few announcements and a decision as to when to reconvene in December.

The main objective of this first assemblage was the opportunity to renew old friendships, to converse in person with one another, to become re-acquainted once again. It was indeed, a club revival!

Steve Moore
SSSC Secretary



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NEA Crossword Puzzle

Your Birthday

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2021

open mind, but don't take unnecessary risks. A minimalist approach will save you time and money and help you avoid an argument with someone who can influence your status or reputation.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) – Assess a situation, make your move and finish what you start. Living up to your word will help ward off criticism and interference. A steady pace and an articulate plan will lead to victory.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) – Map out what you can do before committing to something that may not be feasible. An act of kindness shouldn't put you in a vulnerable position. Get your facts straight and think creatively.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) – Don't tempt fate. Stick to a schedule and take care of your responsibilities. Don't get involved in gossip or be gullible when dealing with peers. A resourceful approach will help you avoid wasting time.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) – Mull things over. Be smart by easing into any change that comes your way; things will turn out better than anticipated. A networking event will pay off. Self-improvement will give you the boost you need.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) – Consider what's essential and concentrate on keeping the peace and being honest about how you feel and what you plan to do next. Don't let your emotions get in the way of your happiness.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) – Do your part and make a difference. Look for solutions instead of complaining about what's wrong. Documenting everything will help you keep tabs on who does what and what helps the most.

Put in the effort and you will reap the rewards. A fast pace, quick mind and fertile imagination will take you where you want to go. It's up to you to take advantage of the opportunities that come your way. Share your enthusiasm with others and take a leadership position.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) – Dive in, take charge and get things done. Take the initiative, and you will turn an idea into something concrete. Refuse to let someone's negativity or misleading rhetoric get in the way.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) – Concentrate on getting things done on time. Use your imagination, and you'll find a way to outmaneuver anyone who tries to compete with you. Use your physical attributes to your advantage.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) – A last-minute change will limit what you can do, causing doubt and stress. Have a backup plan in place before you commit to someone or something that has the potential to go sideways.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) – Don't let anyone take advantage of your kindness and generosity. Offer only what you can afford and what will not compromise you mentally, emotionally or financially. A little romance will help.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) – Lean on someone who is always there for you. The added reinforcement will give you an edge. Be smart about the way you handle your peers, and you will gain respect and support.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) – Keep an

Answer to Previous Puzzle

N	O	R	A		G	A	P	S		J	O	G
O	D	D	S		I	S	A	K		A	D	O
V	E	S	T	I	B	U	L	E		M	I	A
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	P	A	R	K			U	T	E			
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A	R	L	O		N	E	S		G	N	P	
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O	R	A		H	U	M	I	L	I	A	T	E
N	I	L		E	K	E	S		N	A	N	O
K	A	Y		R	E	N	E		E	A	T	S

- ACROSS**
- 1 Weakling
 - 5 Have poison ivy
 - 9 Take an oath
 - 12 "Paint the Sky With Stars" singer
 - 13 Very serious
 - 14 Nest egg letters
 - 15 Dye
 - 16 In a charming manner
 - 18 Stiff
 - 20 Does as told
 - 21 "Aha!"
 - 22 Lend a hand
 - 23 Animal life
 - 26 Alpaca cousin
 - 29 Pipe fitting
 - 30 Hit dead-center
 - 32 Lake
 - 34 "— Lisa"
 - 36 Porgy's love
 - 38 Mexican Mrs.
 - 39 Large-billed raptors
- 41 Entered data**
- 43 Primeval
 - 44 Overeat, with "out"
 - 45 Zodiac sign
 - 48 Russian tea-maker
 - 52 Constitution opener
 - 54 Kappa preceder
 - 55 Tibetan gazelle
 - 56 Environs
 - 57 Make a move
 - 58 Emmet
 - 59 Planted, as seed
 - 60 Pavilion
- DOWN**
- 1 Hoses down
 - 2 Put one's foot —
 - 3 Feathered talker
 - 4 Customer
 - 5 U.S. border state
 - 6 Shipshape
 - 7 — -Magnon
 - 8 Courageous
 - 9 Intuition

- 10 Air France destination
- 11 Customary manners
- 17 Kareem — -Jabbar
- 19 Biggers' sleuth
- 22 Catches cold
- 23 Not masc.
- 24 Sunburn remedy
- 25 Radius neighbor
- 26 Competes for
- 27 Too curious
- 28 Lot size, often
- 31 Not up yet
- 33 Possessed
- 35 Where Aesop shopped
- 37 Milk preference
- 40 Andes ruminants
- 42 Conceited one
- 44 Song of joy
- 45 Links org.
- 46 Mineral supplement
- 47 Pummel
- 48 Lots and lots
- 49 November word
- 50 Ra's symbol
- 51 Enthralled
- 53 Amigo

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
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	39			40			41	42		
			43			44				
45	46	47			48			49	50	51
52					53			54		
55				56				57		
58				59				60		

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2021

Help your partner to defend better

By Phillip Alder

One way to improve both your partner's and your partnership's defense is to buy the reissue of "Defensive Signals" (Master Point Press) by the late Marshall Miles.

It is wide-ranging with lots of excellent advice across 11 chapters and 216 pages. But caveat emptor: From page 62 onward, Miles uses upside-down signals, where low encourages and high discourages. Sometimes, you cannot afford a high card to encourage, but you can usually spare one from a weak suit.

In this deal from the book, East must plan his defense against three no-trump after West leads a fourth-highest heart six and dummy plays the four.

North's double was negative, showing exactly four spades.

East should apply the Rule of Eleven. Six from 11 is five. So, there are five hearts higher than the six in the North, East and South hands combined. Since East can see four of them, he knows that South has only one high heart. Given his one-no-trump rebid, surely he has ace-doubleton.

To ensure that declarer cannot collect two heart tricks, East must play his two at trick one. Declarer will probably win, cross to the board with

North		12-07-21	
♠	A Q 7 4		
♥	Q 9 4		
♦	Q J 8 5		
♣	Q 10		
West		East	
♠	9 6	♠	J 10 3 2
♥	J 8 7 6 3	♥	K 10 2
♦	A K 10 9	♦	6 4
♣	K 8	♣	7 6 4 3
South			
♠	K 8 5		
♥	A 5		
♦	7 3 2		
♣	A J 9 5 2		
Dealer: South			
Vulnerable: Neither			
South	West	North	East
1♣	1♥	Dbl.	Pass
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass
Opening lead: ♥ 6			

a spade and run the club queen. West takes the trick and leads another heart. East collects two tricks in that suit and shifts to a diamond; the contract goes down three.

Yes, if East plays the heart 10 at trick one, when West leads another heart at trick four, South might misguess, playing dummy's queen instead of the nine. But why rely on declarer's misread when you can always succeed?

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.

“CTP CYLKD NI DGI WTAYLCI KTD
DT CVBI AU EGLD V DGVKM VH
YVCGD IBIK DGTACG V DGVKM VD VH
GTUIXHH.” — LPNVYLX WGIHDIY E.
KVNVD S

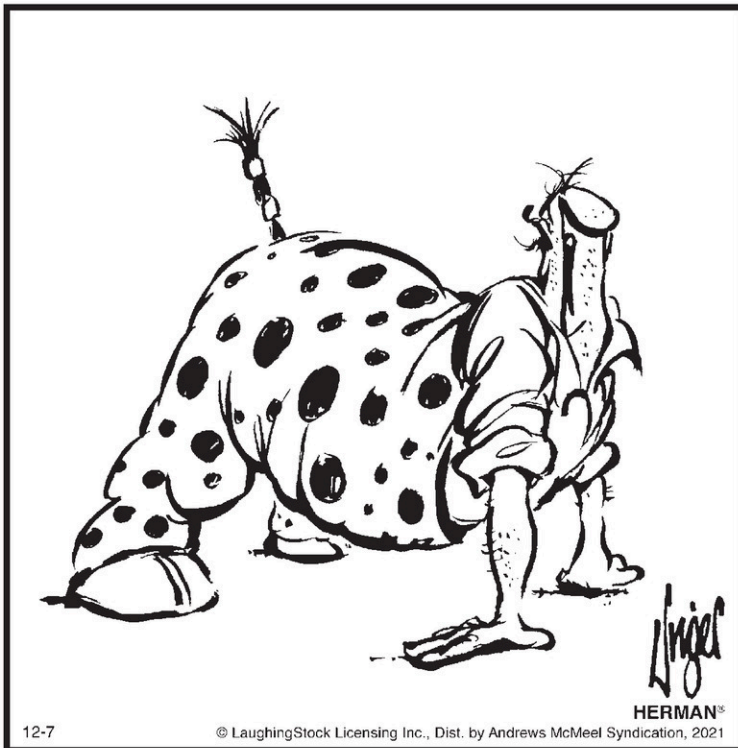
Previous Solution: “I love Milwaukee! I’m going to be in Milwaukee 20 years! I’ll be here so long, they’ll be sick of me!” — Giannis Antetokounmpo

TODAY’S CLUE: $K \text{ equals } W$

REALITY CHECK

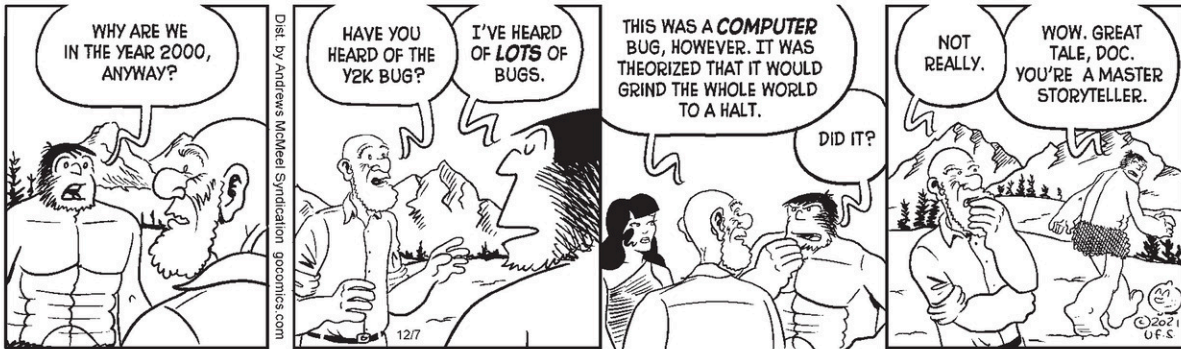


HERMAN



“Do you mind slowing down?”

ALLEY OOP



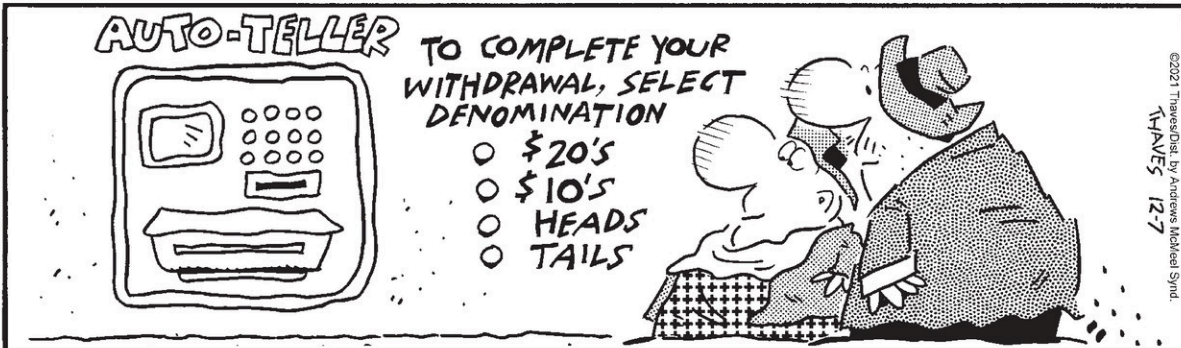
ARLO & JANIS



THE BORN LOSER



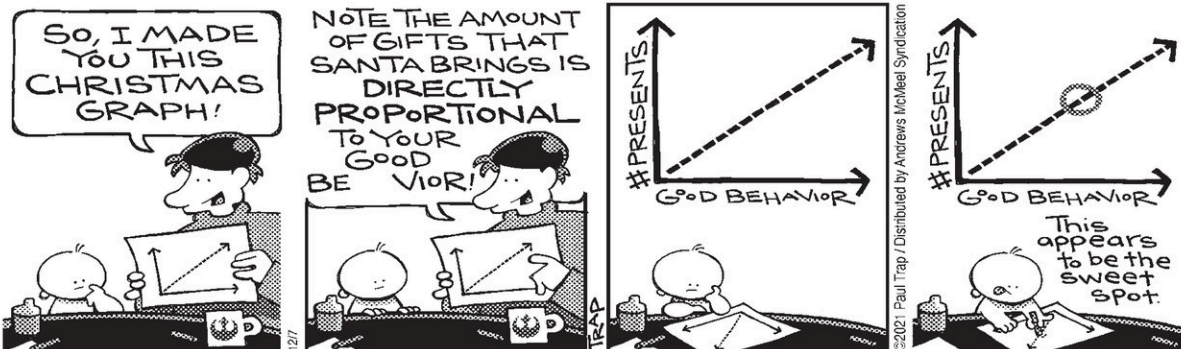
FRANK AND ERNEST



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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.

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.

ONLINE WORKSHOPS
 Mental Health Estrie invites you to a free virtual workshop in English: "Finding Hope for the Ag Community" presented by Lauren Van Ewyk (MScMHC, RSW, sheep farmer). Whether you are part of the ag community, work with its members, or know friends and family who do, this workshop could help you develop strategies to boost the mental health of those involved in agriculture while gaining a better understanding of the challenges faced in this profession. Open to all, 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., Thursday, December 16. For more information, or to register, please visit our Facebook or Instagram pages, email outreach@mentalhealthestrie.com, or call 819-565-2388.

ONLINE
 Online presentation - Zoom in on Health: Mental Well-Being During the Winter Season. Thursday, December 9, 12:00 to 1 p.m.; Zoom. A recording of this presentation will be shared with registered participants only. To register, email: ca@townshippers.org.

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

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PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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9	5	6	7	2	8	4	1	3
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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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New Office Hours

THE RECORD

Please note that **The Record office will be closed at noon on Fridays.**

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Dealing with difficult exes

Dear Annie

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2021

Dear Annie: How do I convey to my adult married children that I do not like being around my ex for the holidays? My son lives several states away, and he invited my daughter and her family, my ex, and my wife and me for Thanksgiving together. This will be the first time in close to seven years that I will see both of my children together for a holiday.

My daughter has had Christmas at her home every year since my granddaughter was born. We are invited, but my ex is always there. I think holidays should be happy occasions, at a minimum, so maybe we could rotate years. But that does not happen. I am dreading Thanksgiving and being around her. She puts in digs at me or, in my opinion, wants to start a fight when everyone else is out of earshot. I consider her a lying, cheating, adulterous witch.

I want to spend time with my kids, just not with her around. My daughter-in-law and son-in-law have had disagreements with her in the past. My letter is long enough; I could go on and on. – Avoiding Ex

Dear Avoiding Ex: The best way to convey to your adult children that you would not like to be around your ex for the holidays is to tell them that. But understand that might mean less time with your kids.

You really have two choices: Ignore the chatter and negativity that is your ex-wife for the sake of spending more (quantity) time, or spend less time – but quality time – with your kids without your ex making rude remarks.

Regardless of what you decide, she is going to be in your life. It's best to try to let go and forgive some of the anger you have toward her for her adultery. Not for her sake, but for yours.

Dear Annie: I broke up with the mother of my children two years ago. We have had a very rocky past. I treated her badly for the first couple of years, and we separated for two years after our first child was born. We got back together 18 months later.

We were together for seven years on our second stint, and we had another child. We eventually didn't work out when my job took me away and she refused to leave her mother.

Now I am treated like a criminal. I don't get to see them and am only allowed to talk to the youngest one, and that's only once a week. The mother refuses to work with me on a fair schedule, and the courts are so backed up it may be another six months before I can get a court date.

The mother isn't a good person, and I fear for the way my kids are being raised and what they are being told. I'm at a loss on what to do while I wait for the court date. – Concerned

Father

Dear Concerned: At least you're honest, admitting that your treatment of her was not good, so you can understand why she is keeping you away. But if you have really changed, why not write her a letter explaining what was going on in your life? Send her flowers; send the kids gifts. You might even try to have a calm, quiet conversation with her mother as well. Try courting them a

little, rather than waiting for your day in court. If you are successful, you won't need it.

"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.

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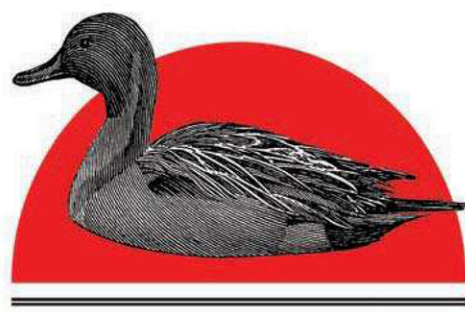
I'm a soccer mom.

I'm deaf.

But I'm definitely not dumb.

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Abercorn church to become community cultural centre

By Ruby Irene Pratka
Local Journalism Initiative

The two historic churches in Abercorn may no longer host regular services, but they are expected to remain hubs for the community thanks to the actions of concerned citizens.

Both the All Saints Anglican Church and Église Saint-Simon, a Catholic church, were sold earlier this year. The Anglican church was acquired by the nonprofit Centre culturel d'Abercorn, which plans to use it as a concert venue starting in late summer 2022.

"There were 14 or 15 people who donated money to be able to make an offer to buy the church" earlier this year, explains Patrice Lefebvre, a board member of the Centre culturel d'Abercorn.

All Saints "has been maintained by members of the community for more than 150 years, and we wanted it to remain community property," Lefebvre says. The nonprofit became the official owner of the church in June 2021.

The church has not held regular weekly services for many years. "Even in the early 1990s, there were not regular masses; there were occasional services that were more like reunions," says Lefebvre. He has organized occasional concerts in the church since 2013 as part of the Concerts champêtres d'Abercorn series; pianist Mathieu Gaudet and soprano Marie-Josée Lord have performed there in recent years. The church can accommodate about 150

CONT'D ON PAGE 4

Gabrielle Giroux-Bertrand Library in Cowansville has full schedule of events



A stilt walker added to the telling of the story of Stella.



LOUISE SMITH

Ginette Despatie is the animator of the story telling and a great harpist to boot.

By Louise Smith

This past Saturday Ginette Despatie, an entertainer and harpist, put on a free show in the children's section of the local library. Ginette played the harp and helped with the narration of a French story for children entitled "Stella Veut Des Ailes."

Accompanying Ginette was a stilt walker who entertained and helped narrate the story. He came out after stilt walking to juggle various objects while moving the story along. Children and parents alike clapped after each of his mini performances.

On Dec. 12 at 11 a.m. there will be another event entitled "400 Ans d'Opera" (400 Years of Op-

era). It is billed as being for the whole family. If you look up the Municipal Library of Cowansville and click on events, you can then register for any of the free upcoming activities.

It is good to see the library open again, and it is well-attended and a hub for the community.

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Brome County Community Bulletin Board

LAC BROME FOOD BANK - If you need assistance, please call 450-242-2020 ext: 319. Pick up at 270 Victoria at the back.

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.

December 11

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

December 12

Lessons and Carols service, Church of the Ascension, West Brome. Sunday, December 12 3 p.m. Everyone is welcomed! All health protocols will be followed.

December 15

The next food bank pick up at Trinity Anglican Church. 409 South Street, Cowansville. December 15 from 1-3 p.m. Please wear a mask and provide proof of vaccination.

December 16

Album Launch & Concert. Give It Some Time by Patricia St-Onge. An intimate evening of music, friends and laughter with special guests. Thursday, December 16 at 7:30 p.m. at the Lakeview Inn (50 Rue Victoria, Lac Brome). Tickets are \$20. Call or text 450-204-0203. Or leave Patricia St-Onge a message on Facebook. Seating will be

limited as Covid rules will apply.

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 Three - Joy. We light the Candle of Joy as we continue our Advent journey. Worship service 9:30 a.m. at Stanbridge East United led in rotation by our worship team leaders following pandemic protocols. Our Candlelight Communion celebration is on December 23 at 7 p.m. A special Christmas Eve Barn service will be at 7 p.m. - details to follow. Worship Leader: Rev. David Lefneski. Church office: 450-248-3044; email: 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 9 a.m.. The Waterloo service starts at 10:30 a.m. 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 Three - JOY. We light the Candle of Joy as we continue our Advent journey. Sunday's hybrid worship service is at 11 a.m. following COVID-19 protocols. Please request the Zoom link that is published in the weekly Friday newsletter. Join us December 12 for a music-filled "Lessons and Carols" service with an ad hoc women's choir under the direction of Susan Reininger. Please join us. Minister: Rev. David Lefneski, 450-955-1574. Church office: 450-263-0204; email: 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. **Our mass schedule during the Christmas period will be as follows:** Christmas Eve December 24 at 7 p.m., Sunday December 26 and January 2 at 10:30 a.m. Masks and/or facial coverings are obligatory. There will not be a mass celebrated on Christmas Day. May the Lord bestow his many blessings upon you and your family. 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 a.m. 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 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 1st 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

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.

Christmas dinner for Fordyce Women's Institute, a small but warm sendoff to 2021

By Louise Smith

Usually in December a large Christmas meal is organized by the Fordyce Women's Institute, and family and friends and associates from charities and schools which have benefited from the Institute, are invited to join in on the festivities. The reality of Covid meant that members only could gather in Emmanuel United Church's hall. A door remained open to allow for the circulation of air.

After a short meeting, during which \$100 was given to the Welcome Project at Emmanuel United and \$200 was given to the Horizon Pour Elles women's shelter, a pot luck luncheon was spread out. The food was delicious and no one left feeling

any hunger. Dessert gift boxes were made for members and associates who were not able to attend. A gift of several boxes of cookies and bags of candies were donated to the English Language Group Home on Bell Street.

In the spring, if Covid numbers start to drop, a bigger celebration may be possible to celebrate the 75 years since the founding of the Fordyce Women's Institute.

The Fordyce Women's Institute does not meet in January, but it will reconvene in February on the first Wednesday of the month.

Members of the Fordyce Women's Institute met for their December Christmas meeting and meal.



LOUISE SMITH

Brome-Missisquoi MP Pascale St-Onge giving youth a voice in Ottawa

By Taylor McClure
Special to Brome County News

Pascale St-Onge, newly-minted MP for Brome-Missisquoi, and her team are on the lookout for youth between 15 and 30 in the Brome-Missisquoi riding to join their Constituency Youth Council. The Youth Council meetings will take place starting in Dec. until June and it will provide a platform for participants to express their concerns on issues that matter most to them.

"When we approached MP St-Onge with this proposition, she immediately said yes," said Kimberly Luce, campaign manager. "We want to hear from the youth, exchange with them, and hear their ideas to best represent them because they are a part of the citizens here and we think they can bring a lot to the table."

"Very often they don't have as many opportunities to speak their mind. For example, in the riding I get to meet with business owners, I get to meet

with volunteers, mayors, but a direct conversation with younger people that are our future it doesn't happen that often," said St-Onge. "It's important for me to get their thoughts, input, and criticism."

St-Onge said that her team wants to provide a platform that will allow citizens to step foot in the world of politics and give them a voice at the federal table in Ottawa. "It's a chance to learn what it's like inside politics, what we can do, what we are doing, and how they can help us improve our ideas and make sure what we want to do fits with the young people in Quebec and Brome-Missisquoi. It is great for all parties."

Four meetings will take from December to June 2022 that will be focused on the interests of the group. "Something that I would like to do, for example, if they are interested in the environment, I would ask my colleague to join in on the meetings and chat directly with participants or have other colleagues come in to talk about

prevention of gun violence. Anything they are interested in, I would like to have colleagues join and talk with the group."

Special projects and activities can also be organized. "If ever they are interested in doing a volunteer activity like helping out for community dinners or a soup kitchen that is something we can also organize. We can think about projects we can do for the community, it's a great way to get involved," added St-Onge.

There are certain requirements when applying to be a part of the Youth Council. "They can apply if they are between 15 to 30 years old, it's quite a wide range," explained Luce. "It's important to hear from them and what they have to say. They have to be from the riding, that is very important for us since every liberal MP basically has their own youth council, and they have to be available for the four meetings that will start in Jan. to the month of June."

St-Onge's team has high hopes

for the new council. "We want them to learn more about the federal government and what the MP does. A lot of people don't concretely know what they do here in the region and we want to develop links and a strong relationship with groups of citizens in the riding, but youth are the future, so it's super important to include them. Once the year finishes, we want to stay in touch and to stay connected," said Luce.

"Democracy is something that constantly needs to be renewed and sometimes younger people don't have as much faith in our system. It's a great way to reconnect with our institutions, to have a conversation, to get to know each other, and to make sure that there are young people in politics, institutions, and democracy, to ensure that it lives on after us," St-Onge emphasized.

The deadline to apply for the Constituency Youth Council is Dec. 10 at the link below. <https://forms.gle/VcDhZAEic6hSWg2q9>.

Heritage project hills rising above Bedford

By Ruby Irene Pratkan
Local Journalism Initiative

Two artificial hills are rising above the town of Bedford as part of the Heritage Project, a future public park funded and directed by Graymont, which owns and operates the nearby quarry. The hills are being built with waste stone from the quarry.

"We have a lot of unused stone that we have to extract to get to the limestone, and we were running out of space to store it on our property," explains plant director Claudia Houde. "People were worried that [this would lead to] big piles of waste, so we wanted to do something that looked nice."

Houde also says the project, the first of its kind in the region, will prolong the life of the quarry "for the next forty years" by providing a safe and environmentally sound disposal site for the waste stone. "We're developing the park while exploiting the quarry, which allows us to [ensure] the quarry's long-term survival," she says.

The project has faced several delays since it was first proposed in 2010. The approval of the town of Bedford, the provincial commission for the protection of agricultural lands and the Quebec environment ministry all had to approve the proposal. The Union des producteurs agricoles also expressed concerns about valuable agricultural land being taken up by the project. After a public consultation in 2012, a citizens' follow-up committee was created to monitor the project, with residents, business representatives and municipal elected officials from Bedford, Bedford Township and Stanbridge Station. "It

took a few years to have all the studies and authorizations required to begin construction," says Houde. The project was officially launched in May 2018, and in September of that year, the first loads of stone were transported to the future site.

Erik Simard, co-ordinator of the Heritage Project, explains the process of building the artificial hills. "We remove the existing soil and any vegetation that's there and we pile it up, to put it on the hill at the end." The clay is then removed to ensure the hill is built on stable ground. Acoustic barriers made with earth are put up around the site to keep noise levels down. Inside those barriers, trucks come in and start piling up the rocks, moving outward as they go, Simard explains. The hill is then covered with the reserved earth and planted with grass seed. The first two hills of the Heritage Project have reached this stage; the first trees will be planted on them next spring.

The first two hills are 18 and 45 metres high. The third hill, 60 metres

high, is expected to be completed within the next 15 years and "be transformed into a forest in the very long term" planted with local trees, says Houde. The highest hill will eclipse the smokestacks of the plant.

The final proposed project includes a nearly 20-acre park with hiking trails in crushed stone, a playground, a chalet and a 30-door housing development nearby, for which the land will be ceded to the town of Bedford. The company will apply for construction permits for the playground and chalet early in the new year. "We decided to make the park accessible to the public before completing the rest of the project," says Houde. "People will be able to enjoy the park in 2023."

Houde declined to provide the project's specific budget estimate, but said Graymont was investing "several million dollars" in its construction. Simard says the company's biggest challenge in the next few years will be keeping noise to an acceptable level and keeping the budget manageable,

in light of the labour shortage and supply chain concerns.

The company is building a fund to ensure the park's long-term survival, potentially in partnership with a local nonprofit. The French word heritage can also be translated as "legacy" or "inheritance," and that's what Houde and her colleagues hope the park will become for residents of Bedford and surrounding municipalities. "We want it to become a destination for people in and around Bedford, a nice place to spend an afternoon," says Simard. "In 15-20 years, I hope that's what it will be."

Current Bedford mayor Claude Dubois has said a major reason he returned to municipal politics after an eight-year absence was to see the project through to the park's opening. "It's coming along well, and the population will benefit from it for a long time," he told the BCN during an interview in late November. No officials from the town of Bedford were able to provide further comment at press time.

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Pet of the week: Arthur

Ben in Focus



My name is Arthur. I am a beautiful senior Labrador aged around 11 years old. I was found roaming alone so we don't know my past. But I can still tell you little things about me. I am calm and gentle by nature. I like being surrounded by people and being cuddled. I am very affectionate. Smelling everywhere is one of my favorite things.

I have hip dysplasia. I am taking medication that helps me manage the pain. That does not prevent me from taking beautiful walks on a leash. My Lyme disease test came back negative.

I am looking for a family who can

give me a nice peaceful retreat, filled with love. Yes, I am one old heart on four legs, but a heart filled with love to give and which would like so much to share its old days with the daily life of a family. I am looking for a home without other animals since I am not sterilized. A house without stairs would suit me well.

My adoption will be one of compassion, so a donation instead of the usual fees.

If you are interested in giving me a loving forever home, write to: adoptionpcamonteregie@gmail.com.



Frozen decoration, hanging in a tree

Abercorn church

CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

spectators. "The concerts we were doing showed us it was possible [to use the church as a performance space] but it will cost money to renovate and winterize," he says. "We can't install elaborate lighting or curtains because of the heritage designation. We'd like to organize acoustic music evenings, singing, poetry readings...and make it easier for other people to organize events."

Currently, the unheated building can only host events in summer. Lefebvre says the cultural centre is current-

ly applying for funding to repair the church's roof, improve the lighting and add an emergency exit. In the medium term, members hope to be able to build a heated annex to serve as a ticket booth and green room. "I don't think we'll ever be able to winterize it completely for year-round use, but we'll hopefully be able to prolong the season a little, to hold events from April to October." By 2023, he hopes weekly summer events will be organized in the church.

Église Saint-Simon was put on sale in mid-2020 by the Diocese of Saint-Hyacinthe. Later that year, it was purchased

by Pierre Bernier, a Cowansville-based entrepreneur. Attempts to contact Bernier were unsuccessful; in July 2021, he told La Voix de L'Est that he planned to renovate the church and add washrooms, a kitchen and a garden.

Lefebvre said he didn't have details on what Bernier's plans for the building were; although he has organized events in the Catholic church in the past, he prefers to focus on the future of the All Saints building. "If we can eventually have events every weekend [in summer] and a few weekday events, that would be great," he says. "We want to give life back to that place."

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.

Brome County NEWS

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ABC Literacy Canada

Parkview Elementary collaborates with new fundraising platform to support its students

By Taylor McClure
Special to Brome County News

Parkview Elementary School is launching its yearly fundraiser with all money raised going towards supporting a variety of activities for its students and the school's Helping Hands Program. In past years, the fundraiser involved the sale of coupon booklets, but things will run differently this time around. Through Educado, a fundraising platform for schools, sports teams, or any youth organizations, Parkview is selling what are called "universal tickets" that will allow parents, friends, and family to support Parkview students while also contributing to their local businesses and putting money back in their pockets.

"The whole point was to try to find a way that parents could support their kids and other children without having to buy some kind of merchandise or product and a way they can support the children without having to spend any money at all," explained Joel Gillis, creator of Educado and representative for Granby. "We wanted to find a way to support the children while putting money back into the parent's and supporter's pockets and that is basically what Educado will do."

The universal coupons are purchased online and there are fewer limitations. "For 10 coupons it's 20\$ and that's how they get sold. Instead of using a booklet where you have a limited number of coupons per page at a particular business, if you liked the two-for-one deal at X store then you can use all 10 coupons in the same type of transaction," explained Daniel Zigby, vice-chair of the governing board.

Each business involved in the fundraiser, so far located in Granby, Bromont, the West Island and Ville St-Laurent in Montreal, will be offering up to three special deals. "The deals are all posted online and the parents buy 10 universal coupons. Once they buy these coupons, they have 10 chances to save anywhere between \$5 and \$400 depending on where they choose to redeem it."

Even if a parent takes one of the smallest deals being offered, parents will still be putting money in their pockets. "You get back two and half

times your money," Gillis emphasized. "You're going to realize wow it's really worth it and save even more money and support students at the same time."

The Educado platform helps make fundraising initiatives simpler. "Now the kids don't have to distribute a product or collect money that they could lose," said Gillis. "It is sharing a QR code or sharing a link -that's it. When we sold the booklets, it took six weeks to get all the money in."

All money raised through Educado will support student activities and outings. "In this particular case, we are raising money for the ski trip for all the students and for the end of year the year celebration that we have been doing at Parkview every year for the last 10 years" said Zigby. "There will be different student activities that they will be participating in."

It will also support Parkview's Helping Hands Program. "Being done at the school level, it is a fund that is available to help out families of Parkview that are in need. We use it to buy snowsuits for kids that don't have the money for it, if someone shows up and doesn't have a lunch we use it to

pay for a lunch, or for a family that runs into a personal tragedy," added Zigby.

Zigby said the school has set out a large goal to raise \$50,000. If each student finds five people to buy and each one of those people come back three times, it's a total of \$60,000. "It does give a huge hand to the Helping Hands fund. It will allow Helping Hands do a lot more than its already currently doing and it was one of the goals of the governing board."

Gillis is looking to expand Educado and to involve other businesses and representatives. "The old booklet, the deals were only good in Granby so why would anyone outside of Granby want to support. We are able to get rid of the borders and call up friends that live 50 miles away and there will be deals in their backyard. They can support your kid in Granby and save in their own backyard, that is our goal."

To donate to the fundraiser, visit <https://educado.ca/parkview-elementary-granby/>. If you are interested in being a participating business, email info@educado.ca.

Student participants and supporters are eligible for prizes.



Joel Gillis, creator of Educado

COURTESY

Annual poinsettia campaign a success

BCN Staff

The 21st edition of the Au Diapason Foundation's annual poinsettia campaign, which took place on Nov. 25t and 26 was a success with a total of 3,216 poinsettias sold; 700 more than the last year's fundraiser.

As a result of the generosity of the local community, the Au Diapason

Foundation, which financially supports the free specialized palliative care to people at the end of life and the psychological and spiritual support to patients and their loved ones in the Brome-Missisquoi and Haute-Yamaska territories offered by La Maison Au Diapason and L'Équipe d'accompagnement Au Diapason, raised a record amount of over \$70,000.

The campaign is spearheaded by a team of volunteers who, year after year, take on numerous roles and implications to ensure its success.

Partners included La Voix de L'Est and M105, who contributed to the promotion of the campaign, and Les Salons funéraires Désourdy and Galeries de Granby, which allowed the group to use their facilities for the distribution of poinsettias.

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Local Women's Institutes supporting petition to grant status to the Quebec tartan

By Louise Smith

The Quebec tartan was designed in 1965, the same year as the Ontario tartan. Every province in Canada has adopted an official tartan. Although the Quebec tartan has been in existence for 56 years it has never been adopted by the Quebec government. Quebec is the only province not to have adopted a plaid.

A petition is circulating to request that the adoption of the tartan take place. It can be done on line by going to <https://www.assnat.qc.ca/en/exprimez-votre-opinion/petition/Petition-9339/index.html> After signing on line, a confirmation notice will be sent to your email, and that notice will have to be confirmed. Then your "signing" will have been confirmed. There are several paper copies of the petition in circulation. The petitions will need to be in before Feb. 10.

It is worth noting that the first Scottish immigrants settled in Quebec over 400 years ago. (Both Wolfe and Montcalm had Scottish second-in-commands!) The Scottish community in Quebec has contrib-

uted significantly to the economic, social, and cultural development of the province. In education, Quebec is the only province in which its school system is based on the Scottish model of elementary and high school. Everywhere else in North America it is the English based system of elementary, middle school, and high school.

The Quebec tartan, which is numbered 1949 in the Scottish Register of Tartans, was designed to represent the Quebec coat of arms. The blue is for the upper division which contains three fleur de lys, The green is for the sprig of maple leaves on the lower division. The gold is for the lion passant in the middle division and also for the crown of the crest. The white represents the scroll with the motto "Je me souviens."

In December 2003 the National Assembly proclaimed April 6 as Tartan Day in recognition of Scottish immigrants. Yet the province of Quebec remains the only province which has not adopted an official tartan.

It only takes a few minutes to fill out the petition online. Help to make the adoption a reality.



The Quebec tartan

COURTESY



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What's behind the creative mind

Celebrating the arts in Brome-Missisquoi

Almut Ellinghaus

By Hannah Polinski

You'll never feel alone on a visit to sculptor Almut Ellinghaus' garden. Working with stoneware clay fired in a gas kiln, Ellinghaus creates sculpted figures of all shapes and sizes, with a variety of constantly changing expressions.

Clay did not come initially to the German-born artist, who comes from a theatre background, studying puppetry in Stuttgart as part of the first four-year puppetry degree in the Western world. It was there she met Felix Mirbt, a German-Canadian puppeteer who she followed to Quebec, where she has lived for over 30 years.

After Mirbt's death in 2002, she began exploring sculpture for the garden. Her first creations were done with cement, but after a back injury, turned to just clay. She now lives and works alongside her husband Stanley Lake, whom she collaborates with often in clay, music, and organizing festivals. They both work out of Ruiter Brook Pottery, Lake's pottery studio.

While her final product may not be malleable, Ellinghaus' sculptures capture a form in constant movement. Often, she creates figures whose heads are separate from the body, allowing one to move them about at different angles.

"What interests me is shape and how things relate to one another," she explains. "Maybe this comes from

the puppet world. You have one shape that's a body and a face. How do these two relate to one another?"

With modifiable heads, Ellinghaus can capture a variety of possibilities for emotion within her figures. When creating her sculpted faces, she aims to imbue them with questions and then have the body play into it, depending on the angle it is viewed from.

"When I make a sculpture I still want that different emotional possibility in that face, rather than just a static smile for example. Then I consider the overall shape of the body."

Body language thus becomes a stage for emotion, while the expressions spread across the face are the driving force. Her process of shaping the bodies is one that she cannot plan in advance, one that relies on intuition and the act of seeing. She begins with a sheet of clay, which she shapes into a cylinder. On this cylinder, she does a basic drawing of what she sees, including some of its face.

"Basically, I have to listen and observe what is happening in front of me. Can I see the possibilities in its imperfection? And if I do see something, am I skilled enough to not lose it while I work it, to strengthen it?"

Eventually these sculptures take form into something familiar to the human mind, many taking large forms, which makes them ideal for an outdoor setting.

Once her figures are filled with a range of emotional possibilities, she



fires them in a gas-fired kiln. This specific type of kiln interacts with its atmosphere and smoke to create chemical changes within the clay and its glaze, resulting in unpredictable colour changes. Ellinghaus is never certain what colour her sculptures will take when she puts them in the kiln, making the final product a surprise to its own artist.

Sculptor isn't the only art hat she wears; Ellinghaus is also a musician and community arts organizer. Along with Lake, the pair have several musical projects together, including the Almut

Ellinghaus Trio and the Honeysuckle Sisters. Ellinghaus is a vocalist, while Lake plays trumpet, bringing lots of great harmonies to the Eastern Townships.

They are also the organizers of the Tour des Arts and the Sutton Jazz Festival, both occurring once per year. While next summer is still far away, they are currently preparing for next year's editions while balancing out their own artistic practices. The Tour des Arts 2022 will take place from July 16 to 24, 2022, at various spots in the Eastern Townships.



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.

Old space, new gallery

Galeri Elca London: Art Intui takes over historical Brome Lea house

By Taylor McClure
Special to Brome County News

Brome Lake is getting a new art gallery. Situated in the Brome Lea house, a historic property on Victoria Street dating back to 1886, Galeri Elca London: Art Intui et plus will showcase primarily Inuit art, but owner Mark London will also share other pieces that catch his eye. London, whose family originally founded the gallery in Montreal in the 1960s, hopes to share his love for the art form and that visitors will find their own special treasure.

“The gallery was founded in 1960 by my parents and we initially showed works by Canadian artists, but over the years, through various locations and interactions, we showed Canadian, American, and European works,” said London. “By the mid 60s, we started to show Inuit art. It was a dual major of non-Indigenous art and Indigenous art. At some point around 25 years ago or so, we decided to focus exclusively on Inuit Art.”

At a time when there was a lack of galleries for artists to share their work with the public, London’s parent became “facilitators” for their artist friends. “A couple of artists started giving commissions for their sales. At the time my mother was working as psychologist and she had three kids at home. She thought this was a great way to make a living and thought it would be a nice idea to start dealing art from the basement of our home.”

They eventually opened up a Gallery in Mount Royal, moved to Sherbrooke Street, then to Old Montreal, back to Sherbrooke Street, before London moved it to Brome Lake. “This is sort of a semi-retirement thing; I’m not opting out of the rat race, but it’s sort of a lifestyle change. My wife and I wanted to opt out of Montreal.”

The vibrancy and the cultural scene in Brome Lake and its surrounding communities attracted London and his wife to settle in the area and they have been working on putting together the new gallery space ever since taking over

the Brome Lea House. “I think initially, my late mother was a psychologist and she had a predisposed interest in art by Indigenous Peoples and its connections to spirituality. So, when we started dealing Inuit art I was a child and I literally grew up with the art in the house.”

London purchases the pieces that are showcased through co-ops. “Artists bring their work into their local coop and negotiate a price. The co-op then pays them and they either get money or they own the local store where you can buy food, clothing, guns, and ammos and whatever they need. They turn the sculptures they’ve made into food and clothing, and the co-op becomes a distributor of Inuit art dealing with galleries.”

Sharing his love of the art and the diversity that is found within it, is a goal. “Everyone has an idea in their head of what Inuit art is and they’re almost all wrong. There is so much variety that you have to look more deeply to see just how wide and wonderful the selection is. Most of our inventory falls into two categories: sculpture and prints and drawings, works on paper, but I do occasionally have textile works or ceramic pieces.”

With a background in art history, London will also share timely pieces that he likes and purchases at auctions. “I deal in new and used. My background is in art history and I always felt that it’s best whenever possible to contextualize. I try and have pieces that were made in the 60s and 70s to show evolution of the art form, or the artists style and career, and how it evolved over time.”

London will be welcoming visitors to the gallery with open arms and he wants people to find their special work of art. “I never want to force someone to purchase something I have. I don’t want to have to sell anything, I want to have pieces that people want to buy. I hope people will say I like this, I want it.”

The gallery is expected to open the week before Christmas. Keep an eye out on the Galeri Elca London: Art Intui et plus for business hours.



COURTESY

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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.

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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.

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

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

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PUBLIC NOTICE

SPECIAL SITTING OF COUNCIL

A special sitting of Council will be held on Monday, December 20, 2021, at 7 p.m., at Centre Lac-Brome, 270 Victoria Road, Lac-Brome.

The meeting will be held according to the directives given by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and the Minister of Health as concerns the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Agenda, Presentation of Budget, the three year capital expenditures program, and other related documents will be available for consultation at Town Hall and published on the Town website: ville.lac-brome.qc.ca/fr/vie-municipale/previsions-budgetaires.

In accordance with section 325 of the Cities and Towns Act, the deliberations at this meeting and question period must deal exclusively with the following subjects:

- Adoption of the budget and provisions for the 2022 fiscal year;
- Adoption of the three-year capital expenditures program 2022-2023-2024

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Death



Eugene Robert JONES

Eugene Robert Jones passed away on November 1, 2021 at the age of 82 (born December 29, 1938). Husband of Annie Lyndall Dudley and son of the late James Jones & Adeline Willette. Father to Angela (& Tony) & Jack. Grandfather to Anodea Passera. Brother of Roger and sisters: Roma Dudley, late Dorothy Premont, late Glenna Page, late Myrna Jones, Norma Kirby, Inez Kerr, Joyce Fortin & Donna Coates. Uncle to many nieces & nephews. The burial took place at St. John's Cemetery, Brome on November 5, 2021.

Card of Thanks

JONES, Eugene Robert - To all of Eugene's family and friends, we extend thanks for your kind support when he passed away. A special thanks to the Masons, Oddfellows & Valerie Cooke for services held in his memory. The many cards, calls and flowers were much appreciated as well as donations, including those made to St. John's Cemetery, Brome.

ANNI
ANGELA AND JACK



Give It Some Time

Local songwriter releases new album

BCN Staff

When Patricia St-Onge was finishing up the recording on her debut album, back in December of 2019, she had no idea how perfect the title she chose would be. She named the album Give It Some Time, and thanks to Covid, that's exactly what she had to do! Now, she can't wait any longer to officially launch it and we can finally hear her play through it, live on Dec.16!

Patricia St-Onge is a well-known performer in the Eastern Townships. She began dancing as a kid in Mansonville and quickly distinguished herself as one of the best cloggers in the province, winning many championships. This gave her confidence to branch out as a performer and she became not just a dancer, but a singer as well and even took roles in many plays. You might remember her from her roles in Knowlton Players' pantomimes and dinner theatres, or lending her talent to countless benefit concerts. Many know her as a choreographer and dance teacher as she ran a successful dance studio of her own called Legworks, which she had to close for Covid reasons. Still others remember her as part of the trio "The Lovely Brothers" with Sheila McManus and Laura Teasdale. Needless to say, most Townshippers have seen Patricia on stage at some point.

She has always been a performer who could be counted on when the chips were down. Her talented family members were always there too, and her Mom (who passed away just a few years ago) proudly recording every performance.

So when Patricia finally set aside some time to record her own songs at the studio of sound engineering genius John Cameron, there was a long line of musicians who jumped on board to help her. The list includes Shannon McGovern, Sheila Quinn, Bruno Audet, Sheila McManus, Laura Teasdale, John Cameron and Rusty James and some of these talented musicians will be her guests at the launch. As an added bonus, Patricia's daughter Emma Lee St-Onge Audet, herself a brilliant young musician, will perform alongside her mom!

St-Onge looks forward to an evening of music, friends and laughter celebrating this album she holds so dear to her heart. She wrote these songs through good times and bad, through great love and great loss. Together we can catch a glimpse of the person behind the friendly smile and effortless talent.

The launch of Give It Some Time is Thursday, Dec. 16 at 7:30 p.m. at the Lakeview Inn (50 Rue Victoria, Lac Brome). Tickets are \$20 and you can get them by calling or texting (450) 204-0203. Or leave Patricia St-Onge a message on Facebook. Seating will be limited as Covid rules will apply.



Patricia St-Onge


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Teamwork is the key for Dominique Martel

By Ruby Irene Pratka
Local Journalism Initiative

When Dominique Martel took over the position of mayor of Saint-Ignace-de-Stanbridge, she had a steep learning curve. She leaned into it.

Martel was serving on the town council in 2019 when her predecessor, then-mayor Albert Santerre, died of cancer. She was the only one who volunteered to take Santerre's place.

"I went for it, because I didn't want the town to have to come under guardianship," she recalled. "I went to all the trainings, I did a lot of networking, I found my place, but I didn't really have time to add my own colour to the position, because the pandemic came and everything had to be put on ice. Once public health measures started lightening up again and people were able to live and do what they want again, I wanted to do what I wanted."

Martel has committed herself to

running the town of about 700 people while keeping her full-time job as director of manufacturing at a nearby IBM facility. "It's not a small job," she says. "I'm always on the go; I'm a very organized person." She adds that some skills, like working as part of a team, transfer well from one job to the other.

She was elected to her first full term on Nov. 7. She says some of her biggest priorities are overseeing roadwork and the construction of the municipal garage and pitching in for the Bedford pole resource-sharing initiative.

The Bedford pole encompasses Bedford, Bedford Township, Notre-Dame-de-Stanbridge, Saint-Ignace-de-Stanbridge, Stanbridge East, Pike River, Saint-Armand and Stanbridge Station. "There's a great partnership between all the members of the pole. We have had the study [commissioned to inform the development of a joint economic action plan] and now the real work can start," Martel says. "We can't continue to work in silos anymore; we need to share resources and work together, or

the survival of our villages will even be in danger." Saint-Ignace is already sharing snow removal services with nearby Notre-Dame-de-Stanbridge, but Martel sees the pole as much more than a service-sharing hub.

"We all have different strengths," she says. "We have a lot of agriculture here; in Notre-Dame-de-Stanbridge they have really strong recreational programming, and in Bedford they have all kinds of services. We need to work together to attract people to maintain the services we have; I feel we can do something to attract more people, make sure there's something for kids to do. We also have people who come to work here but who find that it's difficult to find housing. We have a lot of green [agricultural] zones here, and we need to look at how we can [fit in] more housing."

Martel is also working to get more community members involved in local politics. "When I took over [as mayor], there was no one else," she recalled. "I have to think of the next generation,

how to get more people involved in the community. Now I have a young councillor and more women on council [than in past years], and I like that fact. I didn't think about town council until I had a problem that needed fixing, but once I came [to a meeting], I never left. I like listening to councillors and working together to put projects on the table. This isn't just a job - you have a certain power as a councillor. You need to have the town at heart, you need to be passionate, you need to be a good listener and you need to really want to do it."

Saint-Ignace-de-Stanbridge at a glance:

Population: 676 (2016)
Anglophones as percentage of population: 13.3 per cent
Bilingual status: No (although Martel says in-person services at the town hall can be provided in English when needed)
Land area: 69.43 km³

Festif Bromont gets visitors in the holiday mood

BCN Staff

The weekend of Dec. 10 to 12, a large Christmas market, a wine bar, entertainment, a bicycle parade, and several activities will be

organized in Vieux-Bromont under the title Festif Bromont, taking place on Rue Shefford and in the village's new public square.

For three days, the boutiques and gourmet establishments of Vieux-

Bromont will welcome visitors. The village has a variety of producers that create products unique to Quebec.

In addition to day-to-day activities, more than 20 local artisans will showcase their know-how, at businesses or in the new public square.

The public square will have music, lights, and Eco-Logic bonfires. La Route des vins Brome-Missisquoi, with Léon Courville Vigneron, Val Caudalies, Vignoble la Grenouille and Domaine des Côtes d'Ardoise, will be offering a wine bar and there will be a boutique.

Christmas ball decoration workshops, hot chocolate and marshmallows will also be offered.

Other activities include Baratanga, traveling animation with light percussions, and a Christmas bike parade made up of 100 illuminated bikes that will make their way through Vieux-Bromont.

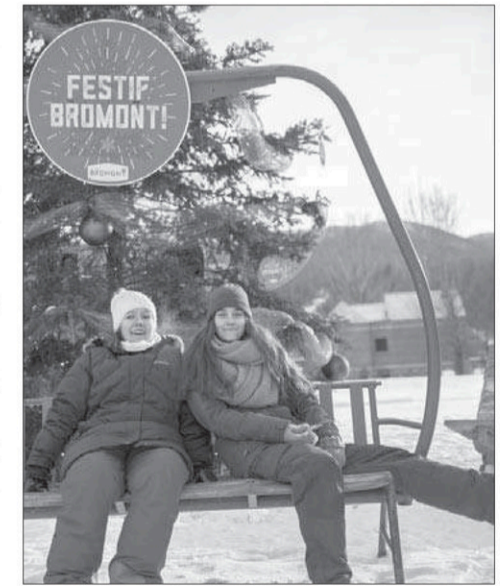
As part of Festif Bromont, a puppet show titled *Le génie de Noël* will also be taking place on Dec. 12 at 11 a.m. Children, with the genie's help, will have to find Christmas stories to bring back the magic of Christmas.

Musical guests The Lost Fingers

and Benoit Chabot et Hélène Bienvenue will be providing entertainment; tickets are already completely sold out.

To add to the experience, a Christmas decoration contest is organized in Vieux-Bromont.

For the complete itinerary, visit <https://tourismebromont.com/festif-bromont/>.



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