

Crowds gather in Chelsea for Remembrance Day ceremony



Chelsea Remembrance Day ceremony on November 11.

PHOTO: MARC CARRIÈRE



Sophie Demers

Many residents, families, organizations, and associations participated in the Remembrance Day ceremony in Wakefield on November 11 to honor and thank veterans as well as Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) members.

The ceremony took place at Cimetière des Pionniers with Cybèle Wilson, district 3 councillor for Chelsea and CAF member, as the master of ceremonies. The Chelsea Firefighter Association as well as the MRC des

Collines-de-l'Outaouais public security attended the event.

Many politicians were present while others attended the Wakefield Remembrance Day Ceremony. Guenard Pierre, Chelsea Mayor, Marc Carrière, Collins-des-Outaouais prefect, Sophie Chatel, Member of Parliament for Pontiac, Chris Blais, District 4 councillor, and David Gomes, Cantley Mayor.

The event was organized by the Municipality's leisure, sports, culture, and community life department in partnership with the Vallée-de-la-Gatineau Historical Society.



Cybèle Wilson, district 3 councillor for Chelsea and CAF member speaking at the ceremony

PHOTO: GUENARD PIERRE



From left to right: Cybèle Wilson, district 3 councillor for Chelsea and CAF member, Marc Carrière, Collins-des-Outaouais prefect, Sophie Chatel, Member of Parliament for Pontiac, and Guenard Pierre, Chelsea Mayor.

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Outaouais leads the charge in green transportation with federal funding boost



Tashi Farmilo

The Outaouais region is taking a significant leap forward in addressing climate change and promoting sustainable transportation, thanks to a substantial investment from the federal government. Spearheaded by the Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, and Scott Pearce, President of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), this initiative sees more than \$1 million being funneled through the Green Municipal Fund (GMF) for innovative transportation projects in Quebec.

In Gatineau, a pivotal project has been launched with a funding of \$175,000 aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions from its sizable fleet of 900 vehicles. This project is not only an environmental initiative but also a strategic move towards developing a comprehensive five-year plan for the city. The study focuses on examining current and planned measures to cut emissions, including a keen emphasis on the city's fleet electrification pilot project. This approach aligns with Canada's broader goals of reducing emissions and transitioning to sustainable energy sources.

Furthermore, the Outaouais Regional Council for the Environment and Sustainable Development is receiving \$23,750 to conduct a feasibility study on sustainable transportation methods. This study is particu-

larly significant as it explores electric and hybrid car sharing in the rural communities of Chelsea, Cantley, La Pêche, and Val-des-Monts. It aims to identify key factors and barriers while assessing the interest of residents and organizations in embracing alternative transportation modes.

These investments are a testament to the Canadian government's commitment to fighting climate change and creating new economic opportunities. By focusing on green transportation initiatives, these efforts are expected to yield cleaner air, a stronger economy, and a significant stride towards a net-zero emissions future. As noted by the Honourable Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, investing in such initiatives is crucial for Canada, where the transportation sector accounts for a significant portion of greenhouse gas emissions.

The investment in the Outaouais region marks a significant stride towards sustainable transportation and climate action. This funding, aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions and promoting eco-friendly transit options, exemplifies the collaborative effort between federal and local governments in tackling environmental challenges. With these projects, Gatineau and its surrounding areas are set to become leading examples in the nation's journey towards a cleaner, greener future.



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CÉGEP Heritage College adapts to new legislative changes amidst challenges



Tashi Farmilo

In response to the latest legislative changes affecting English language education, CÉGEP Heritage College has initiated several adaptations to comply with the new requirements set by the Ministère de l'Enseignement supérieur. These adaptations include strict adherence to enrollment caps and prioritizing students with a Certificate of Eligibility (COE) for English programs.

The college has taken an active approach to inform students and parents about the impact of these changes, di-



CÉGEP Heritage College implements strategic changes in the wake of language legislation. (TF)

The college's administration and faculty have collaborated closely in developing program profiles that comply with the new mandates. In partnership with the Western Quebec School Board, they have facilitated the processing of COEs since January 2023, marking a successful stride in supporting future students.

In terms of language proficiency, Heritage College is implementing comprehensive support programs to help all students meet French language requirements, which is now essential for obtaining a diploma.

For international students, the situation presents unique challenges as they are classified as "non-certificate holders" and must pass the uniform French test, a prerequisite for graduation. The college is working on developing support programs tailored to these new requirements.

Despite the hurdles, CÉGEP Heritage College maintains a solution-based perspective to navigate the legislative changes, with a keen focus on student engagement and wellness. The college's leadership envisions these reforms as a pivotal moment in shaping the future of education in Québec, remaining committed to the success and health of its students and staff.

Racist graffiti incident at Hadley-Philemon High School: a wake-up call for community action



Tashi Farmilo

The Hadley-Philemon Wright community in Gatineau is reeling from a recent incident of racist graffiti discovered at the school, sparking concern and action among parents, students, and the local administration.

On the morning of November 3, 2023, students and staff at Hadley-Philemon High School were confronted with racist graffiti on the school rock at the front of the building and a back door. This act of hatred was immediately condemned by the school board and the community at large.

The Gatineau Police have been involved, and an investigation is underway. As of now, no arrests have been made, and the police remain vigilant, encouraging anyone with information to come forward. The case falls under the category of mischief linked to hatred, and charges, if any, will be decided by the Director of Criminal and Penal Prosecutions.

In response to this disturbing event, Hadley-Philemon Wright Principal, Dodie Payne, has emphasized the availability

of the student support team for those needing to discuss the incident. George Singfield, the General Director of the Western Quebec School Board, issued a strong statement reinforcing the board's commitment to respect, inclusion, and maintaining safe, welcoming school environments.

This incident follows recent controversial remarks by Principal Payne denying an increase in violence at the school, despite a Quebec report indicating a rise in high school violence. This statement has been met with criticism from parents like Amanda Hansen, who expressed frustration over the school's handling of violence and bullying issues.

The school board is taking this opportunity to encourage individual and collective action against racism and discrimination. Students and staff are urged to report any incidents of hate or discrimination. As the community grapples with this incident, there is a growing call for more proactive measures in schools to address and prevent hate crimes and to foster an environment of inclusivity and respect for all.

recting them to a dedicated webpage for updates related to Law 96.

According to Terry Kharyati, the Director General of the College, consultations for the 2023-2028 Strategic Plan revealed significant stress among the current college community due to these reforms. To alleviate concerns, the college has provided communications, information sessions, and French language resources to ensure current and future students, as well as staff, understand their obligations under the Charter.



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War and peace

This year is a special one. Two armed conflicts seem to affect Canadians in particular, even though no Canadian soldier is involved. Perhaps that explains the enthusiasm for the ceremonies on 11 November last Saturday to commemorate the armistice of the First World War, the war that was supposed to be “the war to end all wars”. Unfortunately, it’s always like that: we leave with flowers in the air and come back in a coffin, but that doesn’t stop other conflicts from being sparked off.

Since the Second World War, which followed on from the first, Canadian soldiers have been involved in many armed conflicts, from Korea to Afghanistan, including the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda. In the latter, however, they were peacekeepers with UN peacekeeping forces, which is a very different thing.

And, of course, there have been other confrontations, some of them ongoing, such as the one between the Ukrainians and the Russians or the one between the Israelis and Hamas, not to mention Africa... And given what continues to happen all around our planet, with

consequences for us in terms of social relations (anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, hatred and division), wars are not about to stop! On the contrary, as university studies show: our era is characterised by fewer large-scale wars, which cause more military deaths, and more civil, inter-ethnic or religious wars, which cause more civilian deaths.

By an unforeseen coincidence in my Grade 10 class, we are finishing a unit of work on the theme of the “horrificed gaze”, trying to answer the question: can human beings coexist peacefully with their neighbours? To do this, we studied Joseph Joffo’s autobiographical novel, *A Bag of Marbles*, which tells the story of a Jewish family, and in particular its two youngest boys, fleeing deportation and almost certain death during the Second World War. The question seems more relevant than ever.

Among our young people, opinions on war in general, and especially on ‘our’ wars in the global North, can vary; between cadets steeped in militarism and patriotism, who plan to enlist or join the reserves and respect the uniform, and academics trained in the social sciences,

who note that wars have often been a means of reinforcing a certain colonialism, or even that these same interferences are the causes of current conflicts, there is a world between these two positions.

What is certain is that any war is a defeat of thought, that if an armed conflict takes place, each of us must try to “keep our heads”, to understand the nuances. For example, that Israel is fighting a terrorist organisation whose aim is to destroy it, and has proved this in the worst possible way; that standing up to Hamas is not anti-Palestinian, still less Islamophobic; or that we can hope for humanitarian corridors and a reconsideration of the policy of illegal occupation by Israeli “settlers” on the West Bank without being anti-Semitic. Unfortunately, twenty-first century human beings are still incapable of avoiding fighting with their neighbours over a piece of land in the name of peace.

Didier Périès, translated

LETTERS

to the **Editor** *Opinions expressed are not necessarily shared by the paper*

Murray: Chelsea violates judge’s order

The Municipality of Chelsea has failed to comply with the order issued by Access to Information Commission Judge Martine Riendeau on August 4th. It had until August 25 to provide answers regarding the possible violations of a bylaw and stop-work order pertaining to the illegal enlargement or modification of a structure built on the Meech lakebed.

Under section 162 of Quebec’s Act on access to public documents, every person who violates “an order of the Commission, is guilty of an offence.” As well, under section 164 of the Act, the Commission may “institute penal proceedings for an offence.”

Judge Martine Riendeau’s August 4th order says the following: “By August 25, after reviewing Exhibit D-2, the organization [Chelsea] will submit its observations indicating in particular whether it wishes to cross-examine the applicant again, produce additional evidence or testimony, or whether it considers that it has submitted all its evidence. It should also indicate whether it wishes to submit written arguments.”

Exhibit D-2 contains a report from the provincial Ministry of Natural Resources and

Forests regarding construction of a house in the Meech Lake fish habitat, as well letters from Chelsea ordering the resident at 776 Meech Lake Road to stop building her house in the water...

The purpose of the judge’s August 4th order was to force Chelsea to explain why it failed to release that information on July 14.

The only possible explanation for violating a judge’s order: the Municipality of Chelsea has complete contempt for the letter and spirit of the provincial access to information act, and is wiping its backside with shoreline protection laws and bylaws all around Meech Lake. Would Chelsea violate a judge’s order if it didn’t have to hide some really dirty managerial debauchery and theft of public property in Gatineau Park?

“The applicant, for his part, may submit his comments until September 1, 2023. Following this, the Commission will notify the parties of the action it intends to take,” says the judge’s August 4th order.

Jean-Paul Murray, Gatineau Park Protection Committee Chelsea

“The same basket”

Abusive restrictions leading to a morbid dependence on electricity: “You should not put all your eggs in one basket”. My father, an astute farmer, kept his horses for a long time after acquiring a tractor. You never know ... When he sold his horses, he reluctantly bought a second tractor. In case. Likewise, his farm did not have monoculture. It is dangerous to be overly dependent on one source of income.

Having become an urban owner, I unconsciously followed this rule. A heating problem that continues (mechanical breakdown, power outage) is serious. The oil boiler was combined with a wood stove. Oil was replaced by dual energy (natural gas boiler with electric element, stove, fireplace and gas water heater). This made it possible to produce heat without electricity if necessary. Camping equipment remaining at hand, enough to survive independently, so as not to seek refuge elsewhere during an ice storm or a tornado.

You will understand that I feel a certain unease about the evo-

lution of contemporary society. Through standards and decrees we are making me totally dependent on a single source of energy. The ancient wisdom has become a defect. Combustion engines are doomed to disappear in the short term. Wood? It pollutes terribly. The natural gas whose merits were praised? Source of GHGs and worse, it poisons your kitchen. Prohibited for cooking in new constructions. What remains? Electricity, but use sparingly. With parsimony because by eliminating all alternatives, from authority or in the name of the new environmental religion, electricity takes on disproportionate importance.

And as these new policies create exponential demand, production will have to be doubled. There you go, the trap is closed. In recent days MM. Legault, Fitzgibbons and Sabia tell us without laughing that prices will have to increase. It is the art of sabotaging our heritage. (Translation)

G. Laurin Aylmer

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Plus que ça change, plus que c'est la même chose



From the Old Testament, the description of the Battle of Jericho reveals that the soldiers walked around the walls six times before Joshua sounded the trumpet and the walls came tumbling down. Now a trumpet, no matter the volume of its sound, would never bring down any wall. Rather this should be interpreted as the trumpet's signal to attack and the soldiers to storm the barricades. I'm no biblical scholar, but it's the only logical explanation that I assume occurred at the Battle of Jericho.

Throughout history, many walls have been erected to deter, or repel, the "enemy" from attacking. The "enemy" is, in reality, fellow human beings who have interpreted good and evil differently than others. Thus, for some, the kidnapping, raping and killing of others is somehow justified. Others, whether children or the elderly, are dehumanized in the process. Walls, not simply borders, must be erected to divide us from those who do not see it Our Way.

There's the Great Wall of China, the Belfast Peace Wall (1969) to separate Catholics and Protestants, the former Berlin Wall, and the Israeli West Bank Barrier separating Israelis from Palestinians.

In the context of the present war in the Middle East, where mostly innocent Palestinians are suffering the consequences, as well as many Israelis, I am reminded of Lord Byron's (1778-1824) poem The Destruction of Sennacherib. Lord Byron was more concerned with the victims of war than with the participating factions. Here are two verses of that poem:

The Assyrians came down like the wolf on the fold,
And his cohorts were gleaming in purple and gold;
And the sheen of their spears was like stars on the sea,
When the blue wave rolls nightly on deep Galilee.
(...)
And there lay the rider distorted and pale,
With the dew on his brow, and the rust on his mail:
And the tents were all silent, the banners alone,
The lances unlifted, the trumpet unblown.

Victor Hugo, the renowned nineteenth century French novelist, published his novel, *Les*

Misérables, in 1862. The central theme is of a man, Jean Valjean, who was imprisoned for many years for stealing a loaf of bread. Valjean, upon release from prison, became a successful industrialist, and under another name, became the mayor of a northern town. Yet, a police inspector, Javert, continues to pursue Valjean. A musical, *Les Mis*, is based on the novel's story lines. It is from that dark musical that I draw upon this personal experience.

As most of you know, my musical history derives from traditional country music, which I continue to love. However, over the years I became exposed to other genres of music as well. Musical Theatre is one of these.

When I began taking vocal lessons through the Meredith Matthews Gets You Singing program, we were more than a dozen students. At one time, we held our lessons at Orpheus House. One of the first musicals to which we were introduced was *Les Mis*. Three of the main selections of *Les Mis* were part of that process. These were *Master of the House*, *Do You Hear the People Sing?* and *Bring Him Home*.

The first is a lighter moment in the musical theatre piece, of the unscrupulous landlord, *Thénardier*. *Do You Hear the People Sing* is a marching song where the students in the streets of 19th century France finally rally to confront the injustices of that time and place. They were led by Valjean. *Bring Him Home* is Valjean's plea to God to save young Marius from perishing in the ensuing battle.

I loved that part of the musical journey, particularly having the opportunity to learn and sing the parts of *Thénardier* and Valjean.

Frequently, I share what I call one of my poems that are, in reality, verses. Here are a few verses of another one of those pertinent to this piece.

On lines put the words in their places
Words may shatter our point of view
They are marching to tell us a story
As a window that we can look through.

Read the script of the play we are seeing
Before lights dim and overture starts
Now the curtains are slowly opening
Revealing a world torn apart.

Buildings crumble in Israel and Gaza
Buildings crumbling, too, in Ukraine
Innocent lives lost in hellfire
As missiles down on others reign.

The theatre is now cold and empty
We, the patrons, now cozy and warm
As we draw up our blankets around us
Where missiles can do us no harm.

Artificial Intelligence for Dummies



by Gwynne DYER

AUTHOR, HISTORIAN & INDEPENDENT JOURNALIST

I'm sorry that I didn't get my article on Artificial Intelligence in last week during the 'AI Safety Summit' at Bletchley Park, the historic Second World War decoding centre in England. I got distracted by some other stuff that was happening in the Middle East.

The other reason for the delay was that whenever I looked at the video of Rishi Sunak, prime minister of Little Britain, sitting awestruck at the feet of Elon Musk and saying things like "Given that you are known for being such a brilliant innovator and technologist..." I would collapse into helpless giggles.

Some people claim that Sunak was pitching for a job with Musk once he loses next year's election and is defenestrated by his own Conservative Party, but that's unfair. Sunak doesn't need a post-politics job; his father-in-law owns half of India. He's just an awkward nerd who wishes that he too was a tech bro.

Anyway, the topic at Bletchley Park was AI. Between Joe Biden's announcement of a US 'AI Safety Institute' and Sunak's 'AI Safety Summit' (graced by Vice-President Kamala Harris, King Charles III and Elon Musk), a lot was said about artificial intelligence. Most of it was nonsense.

Kamala Harris went for profundity: "Just as AI has the potential to do profound good, it also has the potential to do profound harm." That's equally true of drugs, money, and sharp knives. She's still not ready for prime time.

King Charles thought that "The rapid rise of powerful artificial intelligence is no less significant than... the harnessing of fire." At the risk of committing *lèse-majesté*, one must reply: No it isn't, and besides it hasn't even happened yet.

Musk, never at a loss for words, opined that AI is an "existential threat" because human beings for the first time are faced with something "that is going to be far more intelligent than us." It was a jam-boree of the trite and the portentous.

These deep thinkers were all banging on about existential risk, but that is a contingency that would only arise if the machines were endowed with something called 'artificial general intelligence', that is, cognitive abilities in software comparable or superior to

human intelligence.

Such AGI systems would have intellectual capabilities as flexible and comprehensive as those of human beings, but they would be faster and better informed because they could access and process huge amounts of data at incredible speed. They would be a real potential threat, but they don't exist.

There is not even any evidence that we are closer to such creating such software than we were five or ten years ago. There has been great progress in narrow forms of artificial intelligence, like self-driving vehicles and automated legal systems, but the only threat they pose, if any, is to jobs.

The 'Large Language Models' the chatbots are trained on make them expert in choosing the most plausible next word. That may occasionally produce random sentences containing useful new data or ideas, but there is no intellectual activity involved in the process except in the human who recognises that it is useful.

There is plenty to worry about in how 'smarter' computer programmes will destroy jobs (now including highly skilled jobs), and also in how easy it has become to manipulate opinion with 'deepfakes' and the like. But none of that needed a high-profile conference at Bletchley Park.

So why did they all go there and wind up talking about existential threats? Well, one possibility is that the leaders of the tech giants wanted to make sure that they were in on the rule-making from the start, for there will surely be new rules made about AI over the next few years.

Most of those rules will be about mundane commercial matters, not about threats to human existence. You might feel that it would be inappropriate for the people who will be making money from these commercial activities to be the ones making the rules.

On the other hand, they should certainly be involved in decisions about any existential threats arising from their new technologies, so tactically it makes more sense for them to steer the discussion in that direction. They're not stupid, you know.

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Water Rangers' community-based water monitoring helps close the climate change data gap



Kat Kavanagh, founder and executive director of Water Rangers (GN).

PHOTO: WATER RANGERS



Greg Newing

With the effects of global warming accelerating in 2023, the need to keep a close eye on the local environment is more urgently felt. A non-profit founded in the Outaouais called Water Rangers is taking concrete steps to respond to the challenge of gathering local climate data by empowering communities in the region to monitor the health of nearby lakes and rivers, and to share their findings with the rest of Canada. Over the past year, Water Rangers collaborated with the municipality of Val-des-Monts to collect data on 47 lakes in the region and will be collecting data on a further 50 lakes in 2024. Cottage Living interviewed Kat Kavanagh, Water Rangers founder and executive director, and Laura Gilbert, Water Rangers community and operations manager to learn more about their work and the importance of community-based water testing in the Outaouais.

WATER RANGERS

Water Rangers provides easy to use test-kits and training to community organizations and individuals for testing and monitoring local bodies of water. Kavanagh founded the organization in Val-des-Monts after being inspired by her father's initiative to monitor condi-

tions on a local lake, "The idea for Water Rangers came from watching my father do water monitoring over 20 years. He had a filing cabinet full of data but no easy way to share it with the community." In 2015, Kavanagh entered the Ottawa River Hackathon, a competition designed to develop creative ways to use technology to address water problems. She proposed a data sharing platform that allowed anyone from the public to upload water quality data online. While the proposal was successful, an accompanying public education piece was needed, "We soon realized that people didn't know which tools to use to test their local bodies of water. In 2016 we then developed curated test kits."

Water Rangers has since distributed more than 5,500 test kits and has over 200,000 data points from over 6,300 sites on its online platform. The organization has trained over 25,000 people and more than 295 groups and organizations currently use the platform. Education initiatives have included around 500 teachers who have trained over 15,000 youth. Kavanagh said that over the past several years the program has helped non-specialists feel empowered to teach others about the science of water testing, "Once people learn how to test, it's really easy. Many begin to teach others right away and find it very empowering."

Continued on page 20

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Un mot du président

Je suis très content de reprendre les rênes de cet événement fort qu'est Noël dans le Vieux-Aylmer !

C'est entouré de gens dynamiques et impliqués que nous vous livrons une édition toute spéciale marquant le 10^e anniversaire du Marché de Noël. Petits et grands seront encore une fois émerveillés de voir l'arrivée du Père Noël sur notre belle rue Principale avant de s'installer confortablement dans son royaume aux Galeries Aylmer.

Christmas in Old-Aylmer is celebrating the 10th anniversary of its Christmas Market and Santa Claus is coming to town on December 2nd for the Parade's 27th edition.

Guy Leblanc
Président du CA et comité organisateur du Défilé





Mylène Deneault, formatrice

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Quebec's tuition hike controversy: a bid to protect French or a higher education setback?



Tashi **Farmilo**

In a recent turn of events, Quebec has announced plans to nearly double the tuition rates for Canadian students from outside the province attending its English-language universities. This move, led by French Language Minister Jean-François Roberge and Higher Education Minister Pascale Déry, aims to prioritize French-language universities and address the decline of the French language in Quebec. However, this decision has sparked widespread concern and criticism.

Starting in 2024, the tuition fees for out-of-province students will surge from approximately \$9,000 to \$17,000 annually. This has raised alarms

about the financial viability of Quebec's anglophone universities. The smallest, Bishop's University, fears for its future with nearly one-third of its student body coming from other provinces. McGill and Concordia Universities also face significant annual financial losses, estimated at up to \$94 million and \$62 million, respectively.

The Quebec government's move has not only been criticized for its potential economic impact but also for the lack of consultation with the affected universities. Graham Carr, Concordia University's President and Vice-Chancellor, expressed shock and disappointment, noting the decision's impact on

Montreal's reputation as an affordable university city.

Mayor Valérie Plante of Montreal echoed these concerns, highlighting the negative economic and reputational impacts this policy could have on the city. She suggested that it could drive students to consider other cities like Toronto for their studies.

McGill University, renowned for its diverse student body, issued a statement emphasizing the threat this policy poses to the institution's ability to attract international talent. Principal and Vice-Chancellor Deep Saini stressed the importance of openness and diversity in fostering a strong academic community.

Continued on page 16



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2. Biscuits flocons de neige : préparez une recette de biscuits de Noël tradition-

nels (ex. : sablés). Découpez la pâte en forme de flocons de neige à l'aide d'un emporte-pièce et enfournez les biscuits jusqu'à ce qu'ils soient dorés à souhait. Laissez-les refroidir, puis décorez-les avec du glaçage et des paillettes.

3. Chocolat chaud épicé à la cannelle : préparez un mélange de chocolat chaud avec du lait et un peu de cannelle moulue. Ajoutez de la crème fouettée et des guimauves miniatures sur le dessus, puis saupoudrez le tout avec une pincée de cannelle. Pour la touche finale, accrochez une petite canne de bonbon au bord de la tasse.

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Quebec's tuition hike controversy: a bid to protect French or a higher education setback?

Continued from page 15

Adding a personal perspective, student Taz Chu expressed concerns on their social media page: "The consequences of Quebec's tuition hike for out-of-province students (like myself) next year and the crackdown on English universities could genuinely jeopardize McGill. Hiring freeze, ~50 million in revenue lost, and a catastrophic drop in enrollment."

In response to these developments, a petition has been launched, demanding the cancellation of the tuition hike. The petition highlights the detrimental

effects on accessibility to higher education and the propagation of elitism and classism in the academic sphere. It also acknowledges the cultural and intellectual richness that out-of-province students bring to Quebec.

This tuition hike stands at a critical crossroads for Quebec's higher education system and its global standing. The decisions made in the coming months will not only affect the province's language policies, but also its reputation as a centre of affordable and quality education.

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NCC unveils ambitious plan for a greener and more inclusive capital



Tashi Farmilo

The National Capital Commission (NCC) has announced its Sustainable Development Strategy 2023–2027, which aims to make the National Capital Region a model of sustainability, environmental stewardship and social inclusivity.

The strategy, which was recently tabled in Parliament, outlines the NCC's vision and actions for a sustainable and climate-resilient capital that reflects the values and aspirations of Canadians. It covers various aspects of the NCC's mandate, such as procurement, conservation, transportation and urban planning.

The strategy is aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, a global framework for achieving a better and more sustainable future for all. Some of the targets that the NCC has set for itself include: planting 100,000 trees on NCC lands by 2026, as part of the NCC Forest Strategy. Showing progress on 100% of short-term actions identified under the NCC Climate Adaptation Plan by 2027. Putting in place at least three new projects where one of the objectives is to advance reconciliation by 2027, including green procurement criteria in 80% of standing offers and contracts for the purchase of high-impact goods, service



The NCC launches a new cycle of its Sustainable Development Strategy, with bold actions to green the Capital Region and address climate change. (TF)

PHOTO: TASHI FARMILO

es and construction by 2027. Ensuring 100% of NCC light-duty fleet is zero-emission by 2030. Seeing a 90% reduction in Scope 1 and 2 greenhouse gas emissions from real property and fleet owned and operated by the NCC from 2005 levels by 2050.

Tobi Nussbaum, the CEO of the NCC, said that the strategy reflects the NCC's commitment to working with its partners and stakeholders to create a capital that is sustainable, resilient and inclusive.

17.6% salary increase over 5 years for Collines-des-Outaouais police officers



Sophie Demers

The MRC des Collines-de-l'Outaouais and the police fraternity of the MRC have signed a new collective agreement. The agreement details a 17.6% salary increase over 5 years as well as a structuring work schedule and increased flexibility.

"This new agreement is a modernization and update for our organization. It will enable us to lay the groundwork for a reorganization of the MRC des Collines-de-l'Outaouais public safety service structure," said Martial Mallette, Director for the MRC des Collines-de-l'Outaouais

public security.

The MRC states that these measures will ensure a better work-life balance. The contract will be valid until December 31, 2026.

"The work of our police officers has a direct impact on the quality of life of our citizens. Thanks to the remarkable work of our negotiating teams, this new agreement will enable us to move forward with several projects for our communities with the certainty that our police officers enjoy excellent conditions and a stimulating work environment," said Marc Carrière, MRC des Collines-de-l'Outaouais Prefect.

"Guided by the notion that when we work together, we all share the benefits, the Sustainable Development Strategy will serve not only as an essential road-map for the NCC to achieve its sustainability goals, but also as a tool to build alignment and collaboration with our federal, regional and Indigenous partners," Nussbaum said.

The strategy is the result of extensive consultations with the public, experts, Indigenous communities and other levels of government. The NCC said that it will monitor and report on its progress annually and update the strategy as needed to reflect changing circumstances and priorities.



AVIS DE RADIATION TEMPORAIRE

PRENEZ AVIS que **Dr PIERRE-CHARLES GÉNÉREUX** (no de membre : 04299), exerçant la profession de dentiste au 150 Promenade du Portage à Gatineau, a été déclaré coupable par le Conseil de discipline de l'Ordre des dentistes, d'infractions qui lui étaient reprochées dans la plainte disciplinaire no **14-22-01326**, commises entre les ou vers les 16 septembre 1999 et 28 juillet 2021, à savoir :

Chef 1 : a utilisé le VELscope de façon contraire aux normes scientifiques généralement reconnues en médecine dentaire, à savoir : [...] contrevenant ainsi aux articles 3.01.03 du Code de déontologie des dentistes et à l'article 59.2 du Code des professions ;

Chef 2 : a réclamé des honoraires pour des actes professionnels non dispensés ou faussement décrits dans le dossier des patients suivants [...] contrevenant ainsi à l'article 4.02.01e) du Code de déontologie des dentistes ;

Chef 3 : a réclamé des honoraires pour des actes professionnels non dispensés ou faussement décrits, soit des examens particuliers alors qu'il avait plutôt procédé à des examens de rappel relativement aux patients suivants [...] contrevenant ainsi, à l'article 4.02.01e) du Code de déontologie des dentistes ainsi qu'à l'article 59.2 du Code des professions

Chef 4 : a effectué des traitements de dentisterie opératoire de façon contraire aux normes scientifiques généralement reconnues en médecine dentaire, à savoir [...], contrevenant ainsi à l'article 3.01.03 du Code de déontologie des dentistes ;

Chef 5 : a faussement déclaré avoir procédé à des actes dentaires sur les patients suivants [...] contrevenant ainsi à l'article 4.02.01h) du Code de déontologie des dentistes ainsi qu'à l'article 59.2 du Code des professions ;

Chef 6 : a obtenu des avances d'honoraires pour les services offerts [...] contrevenant ainsi aux articles 59.2 et 89 du Code des professions ;

Le 31 octobre 2023, le Conseil de discipline imposait à **Dr PIERRE-CHARLES GÉNÉREUX**, une radiation du Tableau de l'Ordre pour une période de quatre (4) mois sur les chefs 2 a) à l), 3 a) à t) et une période de trois (3) mois sur les chefs 5 a) à i), lesquelles périodes de radiation sont purgées de façon concurrente. Aussi le Conseil de discipline a imposé une réprimande sur les chefs 1 b) à p) et des amendes sur les chefs 1 a), 2 a) à l), 3 a), 4 a) à c) et 6. Également, le Conseil l'a condamné au paiement des déboursés y compris les frais de publication.

Les parties ayant renoncé au délai d'appel de la décision du Conseil de discipline, celle-ci est exécutoire depuis le 7 novembre 2023, donc **Dr PIERRE-CHARLES GÉNÉREUX** est radié du Tableau de l'Ordre des dentistes du Québec, pour une période de **quatre (4) mois**, à compter du **7 novembre 2023**.

Le présent avis est donné en vertu des articles 156 et 180 du Code des professions.

Me France Gauthier
Secrétaire du conseil de discipline

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FUN FÊTE DECORATION SERVICE for weddings, birthdays, christenings, and any other events. Assembly of balloons, and surprise bags for children's parties. Rental of chair covers, tablecloths, etc. Rental of cotton candy machines, ice cream cones, popcorn, foot spa machines, and residential inflatables for birthdays. Phone: 873 353-2399. Email: funfete.2019@gmail.com.

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CLEANING AND SERVICES MYRA'S IS LOOKING FOR RESIDENTIAL CLEANERS for a very busy cleaning company in Aylmer. Driving is an asset but not mandatory. Will need a police clearance certificate. Paid training will be provided. Benefits: CPP, EI, and vacation pay. Send resume to: myrascleaning@gmail.com. **com Salary: \$15.5-\$22/hour.**

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CENTRE RÉCRÉATIF AYDELU 94, rue du Patrimoine (secteur d'Aylmer). Location de la salle communautaire, parfaite pour tous genres d'occasions. Pour réservation, appeler Pauline 819 921-3891.

HALL RENTAL

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ATTRACTIVE BLONDE BLUE EYES Tired of being by myself, seeking a caring sincere non-smoker gentleman with a great sense of humor. Needy friendship age between 70 and 85 years old. 819-682-4546.

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BECAUSE WE HAVE YOUR ACTIVITIES AT HEART COMMUNITY EVENTS

AMÉNAGEONS LES ESPACES PUBLICS DU FUTUR COMPLEXE SPORTIF DE L'OUEST Consultation en ligne de la Ville de Gatineau jusqu'au 3 décembre 2023. Prononcez-vous sur les scénarios d'aménagement et soumettez vos idées. On développe les espaces publics du futur Complexe sportif de l'Ouest! Depuis octobre, des ateliers de travail ont permis à un comité de travail de réfléchir et de proposer

des options d'aménagement. Pour en savoir plus, visitez-le gatineau.ca/cso

AYLMER LEGION: - 25 NOV AT 10 AM: FUNDRAISER USED BOOK SALE & CLOTHING "POP-UP" SALE - 26 Nov from 9 am to 11 am: Breakfast - 26 Nov at 1 pm: Euchre Tournament - 9 Dec at 6 pm: Festive Dinner with entertainment by Heart & Soul *Tickets available in advance only. Knitting Group Humanitar-

ian Initiative on Mondays at 1 pm. Euchre on Monday evenings at 6:30 pm. Aylmer Legion 59 Bancroft St., Aylmer, QC. 819 684-7063

MEET MEAN GREEN SANTA @ WOOPII BALLONS December 2, from 2:30 pm to 6:30 pm. 153 rue Principale, Gatineau (QC). Pictures, Mean Green Santa, Grinch hot chocolates, cotton candy, Gift Market, and more fun. Infowoopii.ca

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VOUS NE VOUS SENTEZ PAS BIEN?

Cégep de l'Outaouais Griffons secure southwest conference title, set sights on provincial championship



Tashi Farmilo

In a significant achievement, the Cégep de l'Outaouais Griffons emerged victorious in the Southwest Conference championship of the Quebec Student Sports Network's Division 2 men's soccer. Under the leadership of Coach Philippe Bernier, the team showcased their prowess on the field this past Sunday.

The Griffons secured a decisive 4-1 win against their rivals from Cégep de Saint-Jérôme. This victory marks a significant milestone for the team, demonstrating their skill and determination in the competition.

The journey to the championship was not without its challenges. In a gripping semi-final match on Saturday, the Griffons faced off against Collège Ahuntsic.



The Cégep de l'Outaouais Griffons celebrate their triumphant match. (TF)

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE GRIFFONS SOCCER MASCULIN'S FACEBOOK PAGE

The intense game extended into overtime, with Cégep de l'Outaouais ultimately clinching a 2-1 victory, securing their spot in the final.

With this latest triumph, the Griffons

are now setting their sights on a larger goal: the provincial championship. This significant event is scheduled to take place next weekend at Collège Jean-de-Brébeuf. As the reigning champions

of last year's provincial championship held in Trois-Rivières, the Griffons carry with them not only the momentum of their recent win but also the expectations and anticipation of a repeat performance.

Philippe Bernier's team is already gearing up for the challenge, focusing their training and strategy on the upcoming provincial championship. The success at the Southwest Conference championship has undoubtedly boosted the team's confidence and determination.

As the Cégep de l'Outaouais Griffons prepare for the next stage, their rivals across the province are surely taking notice. The team's accomplishments and status as current provincial champions place them among the top contenders in the upcoming competition.

HOLIDAY MARKETS

AYLMER COMMUNITY THEATRE COMPANY INVITES YOU FOR CHRISTMAS READINGS AND MUSIC FOR THE ALL FAMILY.

With excerpts from The Grinch, Polar Express, Scrooge, and lots of wonderful music. Christmas cookies, and warm cider. Free, no charge, and no tickets, just bring a can for the food bank. December 3, at 2 pm (approximately 90 minutes). Aylmer United Church 164, rue Principale Gatineau QC.

LE GROUPE MAURICE PRÉSENTE POUE UNE 4e ÉDITION LE GRAND MARCHÉ DE NOËL À L'INITIAL. Notre traditionnel marché de Noël est de retour le samedi 25 novembre 2023 de 10 h à 15 h. Venez nous rendre visite! L'initial Complexe résidentiel pour retraités 300, boul. Wilfrid-Lavigne, Gatineau (QC). 819-809-1721. ResidenceLinitial.com

THE AYLMEY FOOD CENTRE'S POPULAR CHRISTMAS MARKET returns for its 3rd year on December 2 and 3, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Centre Aydelu, 94 rue du Patrimoine. Photographers, musicians, our famous tourtières and pies, and many artisans await you!

LORD AYLMEY HOME & SCHOOL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR Saturday, December 2, 2023, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Shopping, lunch, raffles, kid's crafts, and visits with Santa - 116 Frank-Robinson Ave., Aylmer, QC. www.lordaylmerhs.ca/xmas-bazaar

NESBITT'S GREENHOUSE HOUSE AND NURSERY FIRST-EVER CHRISTMAS MARKET Begins November 18 to December 17, Thursday to Sunday. Outdoor and indoor decorations, food, and gift ideas. Follow us on Facebook or www.nesbittsgreenhouse.ca for daily vendors and details. 147, Eardley Road Gatineau (Aylmer).



NOËL DANS LE VIEUX-AYLMER autour du Centre culturel du Vieux-Aylmer. Marché de Noël : - 24 novembre de 16 h à 20 h. - 25 novembre de 10 h à 20 h. - 26 novembre de 10 h à 16 h. - 1er décembre de 16 h à 20 h. - 2 décembre de 10 h à 16 h. Défilé du père Noël sur la rue Principale le samedi 2 décembre à 18 h.

SOUTH HULL HOLIDAY BAZAAR. On Sunday, December 3, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at South Hull School gymnasium, 86 Promenade Crescent, Gatineau (Aylmer), QC. www.southhullhs.ca

VENEZ NOUS JOINDRE LE 26 NOVEMBRE AU 78, RUE PRINCIPALE À AYLMEY pour notre Marché de Noël de 9 h à 15 h. Nous Collecterons des articles non périssables pour le Centre alimentaire d'Aylmer. Prix à gagner et Cantine sur place.

COME JOIN US ON NOVEMBER 26TH AT 78 RUE PRINCIPALE IN AYLMEY for our Christmas Market from 9 am to 3 pm. We will be collecting non-perishable items to be donated to the Aylmer Food Bank. There will be prizes to win, a Canteen on site and an angel tree.

Water Rangers' community-based water monitoring helps close the climate change data gap

Continued from page 6

Gilbert, who manages partnerships in Quebec and Water Rangers' education programs, highlighted how community-based water monitoring is an important way to get an accurate picture of local water quality and to ensure decisions affecting local bodies of water are well-informed, "Canada is very data deficient in terms of water quality data for lakes, rivers and streams. A World Wildlife Fund report in 2020 found that 60% of sub-watersheds across Canada did not have enough data to even determine whether or not they were healthy. That's a

huge data gap," said Gilbert. "We need that local data to make evidence-based decisions. If we don't have that information, then we don't really know what's happening and we aren't sure what impact proposed solutions are going to have. We need to have good baseline data about water bodies before we can do anything to address problems," she added. Gilbert said that those using the online platform can make their data publicly accessible to government decision makers, researchers, and other community groups as well as other services such as DataStream.

VAL-DES-MONTS PROJECT

In 2023 Water Rangers partnered with the municipality of Val-des-Monts to help residents test lakes identified as high-risk for human impacts such as those near roads, housing developments and farmland. While the municipality already had a water monitoring program in place since 2021, it was difficult to test consistently throughout the year and lake associations had to bring samples to Ottawa in order to be analyzed. "A lot of people in Val-des-Monts were quite concerned about what is

happening and have already noticed some changes. We created a custom test kit for the municipality which allowed residents to test locally and more often, even during the months where lab testing wasn't available," said Gilbert.

A total of 74 volunteers from local organizations and groups participated in the project. 47 lakes were monitored in 2023, and another 50 will be added next year. Samantha Rhainds, an environmental consultant for the municipality of Val-des-Monts who is leading the program, expects the number of volunteers to further increase over the next year, "It's a huge project, there are some municipal staff that work on this but really we count on our lake associations and volunteers for success," said Rhainds in a video covering the first year of the project.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Both Kavanagh and Gilbert emphasized that water monitoring is simple and that most people have been able to test and upload data successfully after watching one of their 20-minute training videos. Testing involves taking a series of measurements such as water temperature, mineral conductivity, chlorine levels, pH value, alkalinity, water hardness, oxygen levels and clarity. The most important thing for good water monitoring is consistency, "When people go out testing it is important that they go as consistently as they can at the same time of day in order to get a sense of what normal conditions are. We say you have to test at least monthly to get a good data set – that helps you understand what normal levels are and when you start to see values that are off," said Gilbert.

To learn more about Water Rangers and to get involved visit <https://www.waterrangers.ca/>. All testing equipment is available for purchase on the website, and prices range depending on the kind of testing that is being carried out. A standard test kit costs \$360 and all kits are refillable. Water Rangers also holds calls for special programs on social media and is opening to partner with local organizations to set up citizen water monitoring programs. More information about the Val-des-Monts project as well as a film on the project can be found at <https://www.waterrangers.ca/projects/val-des-monts/>.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/waterrangers>

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