



PAGE 5
VICTOR
Laurin

Heart and Soul
Singers



PAGE 5
GWYNNE
Dyer

Nuclear Powers:
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Aylmer - Pontiac MNA reacts to Quebec Budget

André Fortin says Quebec is spending more but Quebecers are getting less



Sophie Demers
LJ Reporter

Quebec presented their \$165 billion budget for 2025-2026 on March 25. The budget plans for a \$13 billion deficit, one of the largest in the province's history.

André Fortin, the Member of National Assembly for the Aylmer - Pontiac region and member of the Quebec Liberal party, said "This budget is a real head-scratcher for us because, while the Quebec government is running the largest deficit in its history at \$13.6 billion, they're also announcing that they will decrease services in healthcare and education. Usually when you run a

bigger deficit, it's because you're adding services, and this doesn't appear to be the case here. So, Quebecers would be right to ask the question, where's our money going? If we're in debt more and we're getting fewer services, something is not right with the way we are being governed by Coalition Avenir Quebec (CAQ)."

An example of this is the 2% increase in the education budget, which is not enough to cover the increase in salary that education professionals will receive this year, which represents a 2.5% increase. According to Fortin, this means less money for everyday services in schools for children as well as fewer specialized services in schools.

"The government is simply not investing what it should in the two priority areas that I hear about in this region, healthcare and education," said Fortin.

The budget details \$4.1 billion over five years to support the economy, which will include assistance for businesses affected by the tariffs. The assistance will come in the form of loans and financial support for initiatives that help shoppers identify Quebec products. CAQ said this was a strong response to the current economic tension in the US.

"It's a nice posture by the CAQ government to say we're in this situation because of the potential tariffs. But in truth, the \$13.6 billion deficit is a structural deficit that has accumulated through years and years of poor decision making. When they came into power seven years ago, they were offered a \$7 billion surplus. They have turned that into a \$13.6 billion deficit," said Fortin, highlighting that CAQ lost \$270 million by investing in Northvolt and made other poor financial decisions through other failed investments, as well as tax cuts for "people who were in a very comfortable financial situation."

Fortin says the province's Liberal Party feels there was a missed opportunity to make more targeted investments in agriculture, especially with the US tensions making Canadians want to purchase local products and food.

For housing, the budget outlines \$228 million over three years for maintenance of low-rental housing. The CAQ also plans to build 23,000 housing units by 2029. The Quebec government also commits to open-

ing subsidized housing to 1,000 people over the next five years.

"For every housing unit that the government announces, we will support it. But the government is underestimating the need in terms of housing right now," said Fortin, noting that the investments announced in the budget will not meet the needs of Quebecers. If there's any government investment that needs to be sped up, it's affordable housing.

Fortin also highlights that, with the increase in homelessness, the province has put more responsibility on cities and municipalities to find solutions, when it is Quebec's responsibility.

For healthcare, there will be a 3% budget increase. Weeks prior to the budget announcement, the Minister of Health stated that a 3% increase would still mean cuts to the healthcare system that is already struggling.

"In this latest round of cuts they just completed, they let go nurses, nurse auxiliaries and social workers," Fortin said. "The current CEO of the Centre intégré de santé et de services sociaux de l'Outaouais (CIS-SSO) said that, if we have to cut more, we will have to cut points of service, so local CLSCs, local vaccination clinics. In Pontiac, in Aylmer, in Gatineau, we just can't afford to lose any healthcare right now. The Outaouais is at ground zero for less-than-optimal healthcare in Quebec."

The MNA says he will continue to fight for the region in Quebec City and calls on residents to make their voices heard. "If we want them to respond, to do better, to change their ways, we have to be vocal about it," concluded Fortin.

Heart and Soul Singers



On Sunday, April 27 at 2 pm, the Heart and Soul Singers, under the direction of Daniel Lafleur, will present their Spring Concert at Our Lady of Victory Church, 490 Charles Street, in Buckingham.

See Page 5 for more information

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See page 3

Carbon Tax: Significant Gasoline Price Differences Between Gatineau and Ottawa



Mélissa Gélinas
LJJ Reporter

Prime Minister Mark Carney abolished the carbon tax in Canada on April 1, 2025, except for Quebec. Having a different pricing system from the rest of Canada (cap-and-trade system for greenhouse gas emissions allowances (CETS) since 2013, the Outaouais region, like the rest of Quebec, will have to continue imposing this tax on consumers. As a result, this situation leads to a considerable price gap for gasoline between border regions, as is the case with Gatineau and Ottawa.

"Never in living memory have we seen such significant gaps," said Carol Montreuil, Vice-President of the Canadian Fuels Association. "These differences can reach up to 30 cents per litre [...]."

According to Montreuil, this is an untenable situation for gasoline retailers, who must face this kind of competition in a difficult economic period. "Consumers are right to shop around for better prices," she said. "This doesn't mean that people aren't concerned about the environment, but right now, they have other priorities



Daniel Breton, President and CEO of Electric Mobility Canada, in front of the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa (June 12, 2024) (MG) PHOTO: COURTESY ELECTRIC MOBILITY CANADA

with the rising cost of living. The government should implement a gas rebate system if it wants to provide some relief and make retailers more competitive."

Daniel Breton, President and CEO of Electric Mobility Canada stated, "The problem is that people don't know where the money from this tax is going. People need to be better informed and have bet-

ter access to information because, right now, there's a huge lack of transparency."

The money generated by the carbon tax will first be used to invest in several climate change network projects financially supported by the Quebec government. "Some of these projects are good and some are not so good," stated Breton. "Among the main projects are the charg-

ing infrastructure file and the purchase of electric vehicles. However, by 2027, the rebate offered for the purchase of electric cars will disappear. The owner of this type of car will then have to pay a tax," he added.

"I believe that, first and foremost, we should invest in efficient, electrified public transportation throughout Quebec," said Breton. "Currently, public transit is underfunded."

By 2030, the government's goal is to reduce its petroleum product consumption by 40% compared to 2013 levels. Daniel Breton pointed out that the measures currently in place are not sufficient to achieve this rate.

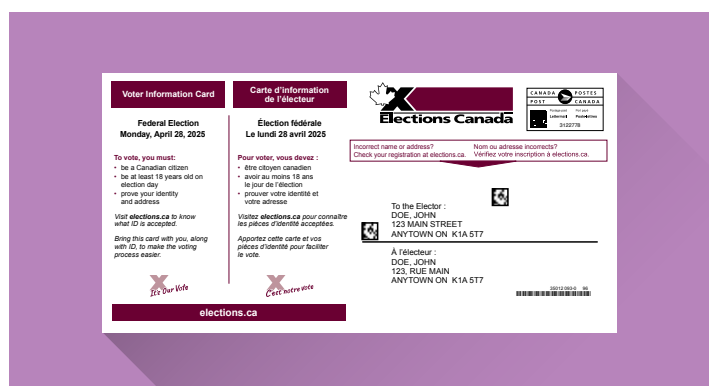
However, the transition to electric car purchases appears to be accelerating. This will significantly improve the environment and public health. "According to Health Canada, the cost of road pollution is estimated at more than \$10.5 billion for Canada, including \$2 billion for Quebec," Breton stated.

Nevertheless, Quebec Premier François Legault has emphasized that we will have to wait for the election results on April 28 before a decision on suspending the tax is made.

FEDERAL ELECTION / MONDAY, APRIL 28



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Elections Canada

The Regional Association of Western Quebecers hosts yet another successful annual quiz night



A dedicated quiz night team that has been attending the RAWQ annual quiz night for over 10 years!

PHOTO: JEANNE NIVISCHIUQ



Sophie Demers
LJJ Reporter

This year's Quiz Night organized by the Regional Association of Western Quebecers (RAWQ) took place on March 21 at the Knights of Columbus Hall. The event

brought together dozens of community members of all ages to participate in a quiz night with a variety of categories. City councillors Anik des Marais and Nike Duggan were also in attendance. There were door prizes given, and silent auction items were bet on. The MC for the evening was Gord Smith, Ottawa's official quiz master who came up with the categories and the questions. Many of

the attendees have been participating for many years, as demonstrated by the photo recreated this year based on the original photo taken 10 years ago in 2015.

RAWQ is a not-for-profit, who focus on advocating for the interests of the English-speaking community of Western Quebec

Quebec's Family Court reform raises alarm among women's shelters



Tashi Farmilo
LJJ Reporter

As Quebec prepares to adopt Bill 91, which would create a Unified Family Court (Tribunal unifié de la famille, or TUF), women's advocacy organisations are warning that the reform may do more harm than good for survivors of domestic violence.

The Fédération des maisons d'hébergement pour femmes (FMHF), a provincial federation representing women's shelters, has voiced serious concerns about the bill's scope and its implications for the civil legal protections of women and children facing violence. In a formal brief submitted to the Commission des institutions, the FMHF warns that the proposed reform contains significant blind spots and risks making an already complex legal system more dangerous for those it aims to protect.

One of the key criticisms is the narrow application of the bill. Bill 91 only applies to civil and parental unions, explicitly excluding married couples and common-law partners with children born before June 30, 2025. This exclusion, the FMHF argues, leaves out the majority of families in Quebec and fails to reflect the diversity and complexity of modern family structures.

Particularly contentious is the requirement for me-

diation in custody and family law matters, even in cases involving domestic violence. Although the bill allows for exemptions, it requires victims to submit a sworn statement to qualify—an added burden that, according to the FMHF, may deter some women from seeking help and could further endanger others by reinforcing the power dynamics of abuse.

L'Autre Chez-Soi, a longstanding shelter in Aylmer serving women and children affected by domestic violence, supports the FMHF's position. The organisation emphasised the need for survivor-centred, trauma-informed approaches. In addition to emergency housing, the shelter offers 24/7 crisis intervention, one-on-one and group support, child-specific services, legal and housing accompaniment, and a broad range of educational and outreach programmes in local schools and workplaces.

Staff at L'Autre Chez-Soi referred questions about Bill 91's impact to the FMHF's official submission, noting that the federation's analysis accurately reflects their concerns. These include the lack of specialised intake services in the proposed court system, the absence of mandatory training for judges and mediators, and insufficient investment in legal aid and personalised support services.

Unlike family court models adopted in other provinces, Quebec's TUF would fall under the jurisdiction of the

Quebec Court rather than the Superior Court. This distinction has prompted concerns about whether judges will be adequately equipped to handle complex cases involving coercive control and chronic abuse without targeted training and institutional support.

In response, the FMHF has made several recommendations: postponing the law's implementation to allow for proper professional training, removing the requirement for sworn declarations from survivors, formally defining terms like domestic violence and coercive control in the legislation, and ensuring specialised support services are built into the court system.

I'm back from Latvia and I'm excited to see my clients at Garage du Barbier. 149 principale, Aylmer
To correspond with me by email: sarahismysunflower@live.ca



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GUEST EDITORIAL

Ethical or not, social media personalities are playing an increasingly important role in election campaigns

With the election campaign in full swing in Canada, social media influencers are being mobilised as never before, like an extension of the parties, to relay candidates' messages to young people and other targeted groups in the electorate.

Given this state of affairs, I am working with a research team at the University of Ottawa, and we have just published a report that looks at the influence of influencers on the voting population and the repercussions of their almost unregulated interventions in election campaigns. Entitled "Influencers and elections: the many roles played by content creators", the 46-page report raises a number of concerns: misinformation, disinforma-

tion, transparency, data confidentiality and interference in elections (particularly through artificial intelligence).

We work with a team that has scoured the major election campaigns in recent nomination races around the world (United States, Germany, Nigeria, India, Brazil, United Kingdom, etc.) to examine the transparency and ethical issues raised by this exercise of influence. We also looked at the situation here in Canada before the launch of the campaign for the federal election on 28 April.

Although they are often seen as mere links in the advertising chain, the report shows that influencers play a whole range of political roles: they can be advertisers or promoters, volunteer participants in

a campaign, lobbyists or data brokers, journalists or media representatives... the diversity of these roles makes it difficult to define, identify and supervise what the report calls 'political influencers'. These people can sometimes be a formidable force for democracy, reaching out to new audiences, and sometimes work against it, when they are used to violate data confidentiality, blur editorial standards, manipulate political strings and circumvent election spending limits and transparency laws (to name just a few problematic uses).

The report recommends measures such as modernising regulations, updating platforms with a view to transparency, raising awareness among content

creators and widespread media literacy work to strengthen the framework for influencers' involvement in election campaigns.

We know that content creators are incorporated into electoral strategies in all sorts of ways and that their content can resonate strongly with the electorate. But what we rarely know is whether and how these people are remunerated, whether they work with this or that partisan group, or what their ethical standards are.

**Elizabeth Dubois
and Louise Stahl**
*University of Ottawa,
Politics, Communication and
Technology*

LETTERS

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

CAQ's health care plan is to ruin Outaouais

The front page of the Post's March 28 edition reported the so-called "Regional Action Plan to revitalize the Outaouais" by the CAQ government -- while the Aylmer Bulletin reported the CAQ's plan to cut 102 positions from our health system, which is already in deep trouble, unable to provide even the basics of health care to our region. Maybe the "Action" in the plan is to return the 102 positions, plus another hundred or so to bring our health system up to, at best, Third World standards.? (One neighbour gave birth on the side of the highway outside Quyon because our regional hospital PCH had its obstetrics unit shut down by the CAQ.) No, that's not the plan.

They are cutting \$900 million from health care in West Quebec and giving us some job-training options, probably in the city, in exchange. The CAQ plan is to "showcase" our "colours and riches". It includes a list of clichés -- without once mentioning health care. What an insult.

Is there anything more important than our health? Maybe education, jobs and

housing, yes, and these are mentioned. But in all the CAQ's "Action Plan" is a complete insult to us. Yes, health care is expensive, but because it is expensive, do we expect our government to ignore it? Yes, an insult! -- a magician's trick, the CAQ hopes will distract us from the necessity of functioning healthcare. Premier Legault obviously believes we are stupid. Perhaps because many of us do not speak good French, we're obviously dumb and we'll buy anything dangled in front of us while the essentials of life are crumbling around us.

Frustrated with years of Liberal inaction, many of us voted for the CAQ. Now we know better. If any of us votes for Mr Lacombe, Mr Lévesque, or Mr Bussières or any CAQ deputy, we will be proving that we are as stupid as they think we are.

Please, neighbours, wake up! Vote for anyone EXCEPT the CAQ when we go to the polls next year.

**Frederick Daniels
Shawville**

Call for applications: become the next writer-in-residence at the Bibliothèque de Gatineau!

Gatineau invites professional writers from the Outaouais region to apply to become writer-in-residence for the year 2025. This program allows writers to devote themselves to a writing project while interacting with the community. It also helps promote regional literature

to the entire population of Gatineau.

The deadline for applications is Thursday, May 8. Details on eligibility criteria and the selection process are available at gatineau.ca/écrivainenrésidence.

**Gatineau Spokesperson
Gatineau**

Credible information during the election campaign

Dear reader: please keep in mind that Canadian news is blocked from Meta platforms such as Facebook and Instagram and their AI tools. Know that false information has always been part of election campaigns, but with Generative AI, deep fakes, foreign influence and chat bots, the stakes are higher.

If you find fake information, report it. Take a screenshot and send to: mediasmarts.ca and electiontipline.ca

To help figure out how to vote, use: votecompass.cbc.ca

Please send in your questions to candidates: info@bulletinaylmer.com

—**Lily Ryan, publisher**

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Heart and Soul Singers



Each of us, at some stage of life, has joined with others who shared a common goal. Frequently, in our conversations, we share our aspirations with those we meet. The smiles on our faces testify to that love we want to share with others. In that vicarious way, we draw them into our circle to experience our joy. That gladness emanates from our very heart and soul.

Daniel Lafleur is one whose life is dedicated to bringing his passion for music to others. Daniel, who now teaches music in Buckingham, has directed many choirs over the years. Before Covid, he directed nine choirs. His love of music and directing choirs has expanded to education sessions at various places throughout Quebec.

One of those choirs, La Chanterelle, is familiar to many who read this column. Sandra Maloney's been a chorister with La Chanterelle for over 30 years. As in most of these choirs, there are some whose love of singing evolves, and others who were inspired to start choirs of their own. Kathy Maloney and Jane Brown are two whose organizational skills led them to start an all-women's choir who pour their hearts and souls into their harmonies. Appropriately, they chose to call their smaller choir The Heart and Soul Singers.

Recently, I met with two of their members, Carolyn and Sandra Maloney. For several years, Sandra has headed The Heart and Soul Singers. Although it is a small choir, it is run by a dedicated core committee. In our conversation, Sandra and Carolyn mentioned one of those members, Monique Boileau of Plaisance. Every week, Monique travels to the practices at Our Lady of Victory Church in Buckingham. It is Monique Boileau who prepares the advertisements and the programs for their concerts.

Unique to the Heart and Soul Singers are the outfits they wear for their concerts. These are always a surprise. Every concert has a different style, and all the outfits are made by the choir members.

Sandra mentioned that, before Covid, some of the choristers came from Aylmer and Ottawa. Now they are mostly local. Appropriately, the choir is seeking others who like to sing. In Sandra's words, "Come on out, try it out, and see if it is something that you would like to do!"

On Sunday, 27 April at 2 pm, the Heart and Soul Singers, under the direction of Daniel Lafleur, will present their Spring Concert at Our Lady of Victory Church, 490 Charles Street, in Buckingham. Tickets are \$10, but free for children 12 and under. Coffee and desserts follow the concert.

To paraphrase Sandra's words: Come out and see what they have to offer. Perhaps it is something that will fill your heart with joy.



Nuclear Powers: The Third Wave

by Gwynne DYER

AUTHOR, HISTORIAN & INDEPENDENT JOURNALIST

The 'third wave' of nuclear weapons countries is beginning, and it will be at least as dangerous as the previous waves. Maybe more so, because it will be happening in a world where the old, predatory style of international politics is coming back after a long absence.

The first wave of countries to get nuclear weapons were the five great powers on the winning side in the Second World War. The United States came first, in 1945, and immediately dropped two 'atomic bombs' on Japan. The second was Russia (then calling itself the Soviet Union) in 1949, then the United Kingdom in 1952, France in 1960, and finally China in 1964.

Then the 'proliferation' came to an abrupt end: no other country went nuclear for almost twenty years. Why? Because the Cold War created stable alliances in Europe and Asia in which the other 'western' members felt no need to develop their own nuclear weapons, relying instead on the American promise of 'extended deterrence'.

The Russians and the Chinese were on their own, mainly because their rival Communist ideologies meant they had no potential great-power allies anyway. The Russians solved their problem by building around 10,000 nuclear weapons. The Chinese settled for 'minimum deterrence' and built only about 300 to retaliate against an attack by either the United States or the Soviet Union. So far so good.

Mention should also be made of Israel, which built its first nuclear weapons in 1966 (with a lot of French help), but it is often not even included in the list of nuclear powers because it never admits to having them. Estimates run from 90 to 400 warheads, deliverable by planes, submarines and land-based missiles.

People have grown relatively comfortable with these arsenals simply because they have not been used for six, seven or even eight decades. That does not mean they would never be used, but at least their operators have long experience of them.

The second wave of nuclear weapons was mostly in what was then called the 'Third World': successful weapons tests in 1991 in India and Pakistan and in North Korea in 2006, and secret nuclear weapons programmes cancelled in South Africa, Argentina and Brazil in the late 1980s. (South Africa already had six bombs but dismantled them.)

There was relatively little concern about this in the richer parts of the world, because possible nuclear wars in South Asia, South Africa or South America seemed far enough away from the wealthy North not to pose a major threat to the latter.

In fact, another India-Pakistan war is entirely plausible (there have been three already), and it could easily go nuclear. India currently has only two ballistic missile-firing nuclear submarines, not enough for a permanent at-sea capability. Pakistan has no SLBMs at all and its ballistic missiles could be destroyed on the ground by a surprise attack, so it is in de facto 'launch on warning' mode all the time.

India and Pakistan have around 350 nuclear weapons between them. If all buttons were pressed, that could cause firestorms in so many cities that it would create a mild version of a 'nuclear winter': enough smoke and dust in the upper atmosphere to block much of the Sun's light for years, causing a collapse in food production and widespread famine throughout the northern hemisphere.

And here comes the third wave of nuclear weapons powers, all seeking to replace the lost American guarantee of nuclear deterrence with some homegrown equivalent: Germany, Poland and possibly even Sweden in Europe; Japan and South Korea in Asia. And if Iran goes nuclear, Turkey and Saudi Arabia will surely follow.

The potential aggressors are mostly the same old lot: Russia for the European countries, and China or North Korea for the Asian ones. Even Canada might now be considering nukes to deter an American invasion if Ottawa were not aware that a Canadian nuclear weapons programme would mean instant US military occupation.

This is definitely a First World wave, which means that the actual weapons could be available in just a couple of years if the various aspirants are willing to burn through a lot of money. It is also a quite unnecessary expense, which will still leave us less safe than we were under the old arrangement.

Nobody designed the remarkably stable system of mutual deterrence that gave us eighty years without a nuclear war. It just evolved out of a thousand smaller decisions that tended always to avoid or postpone or at least lessen the scale of some imminent international confrontation.

Nobody set out to destroy the deterrence system, either. Least of all Donald Trump, who was just seeking some short-term advantages in his usual way. Indeed, his understanding of nuclear deterrence is probably on a par with his understanding of tariffs.

But we'll miss it badly when it's gone.

2025 FEDERAL ELECTION



2025 FEDERAL ELECTION

Introducing the Argenteuil - La Petite-Nation Candidates for the upcoming federal election



Stéphane Lauzon



Martin Charron



Martin Héroux



Michel Welt



Bertha Fuchsman-Small



Lindsey Therrien



Sophie Demers
LJJ Reporter

Canadians across the country will cast their vote in the next federal election on April 28th. The following is an introduction of the candidates from all parties running in the Argenteuil - La Petite-Nation electoral district:

LIBERAL PARTY OF CANADA (LPC): STÉPHANE LAUZON

- Stéphane Lauzon worked for Canadian International Paper before being certified to teach vocational training. In 2009, he became a Gatineau city councillor and owned and managed a construction company. Lauzon has been the Member of Parliament for Argenteuil - La Petite-Nation since 2015 and has worked as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister

of Citizens' Services, the Minister of Rural Economic Development, the Minister of Seniors, the Minister of Veterans Affairs and Associate Minister of National Defence. Lauzon has also held the position of Parliamentary Secretary for Sport and Persons with Disabilities.

CONSERVATIVE PARTY OF CANADA (CPC): MARTIN CHARRON

- Martin Charron is a former interim mayor and municipal councillor. He states that he has been an entrepreneur for many years and has built and managed businesses. He served as president of the Family Assistance Committee for seven years and helped organize their annual food drive. Charron was also the former treasurer of the Civic Action League and has experience drafting policies for Quebec City.

BLOC QUÉBÉCOIS (BQ): MARTIN HÉROUX

- Martin Héroux is an actor and comedian who currently lives in Sainte-Anne-des-Lacs, which used to be a part of the Argenteuil - La Petite-Nation electoral district. He has appeared in children's shows on Radio-Canada and Télé-Québec. Throughout his career, he has worked as an actor, host, stage director, radio station general manager, painter and teacher. He has put his acting career on pause to pursue politics.

NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY (NDP): MICHEL WELT

- Michel Welt was born in France and immigrated to Canada when he was 14 and has been raising his children in Argenteuil - La Petite-Nation for 20 years. He is an obstetrician and gynaecologist working in Montreal and Haute-Mauricie. Welt has also worked in Abitibi. He has degrees from the University of Montreal and McGill University. Welt was also the NDP candidate in the previous federal election.

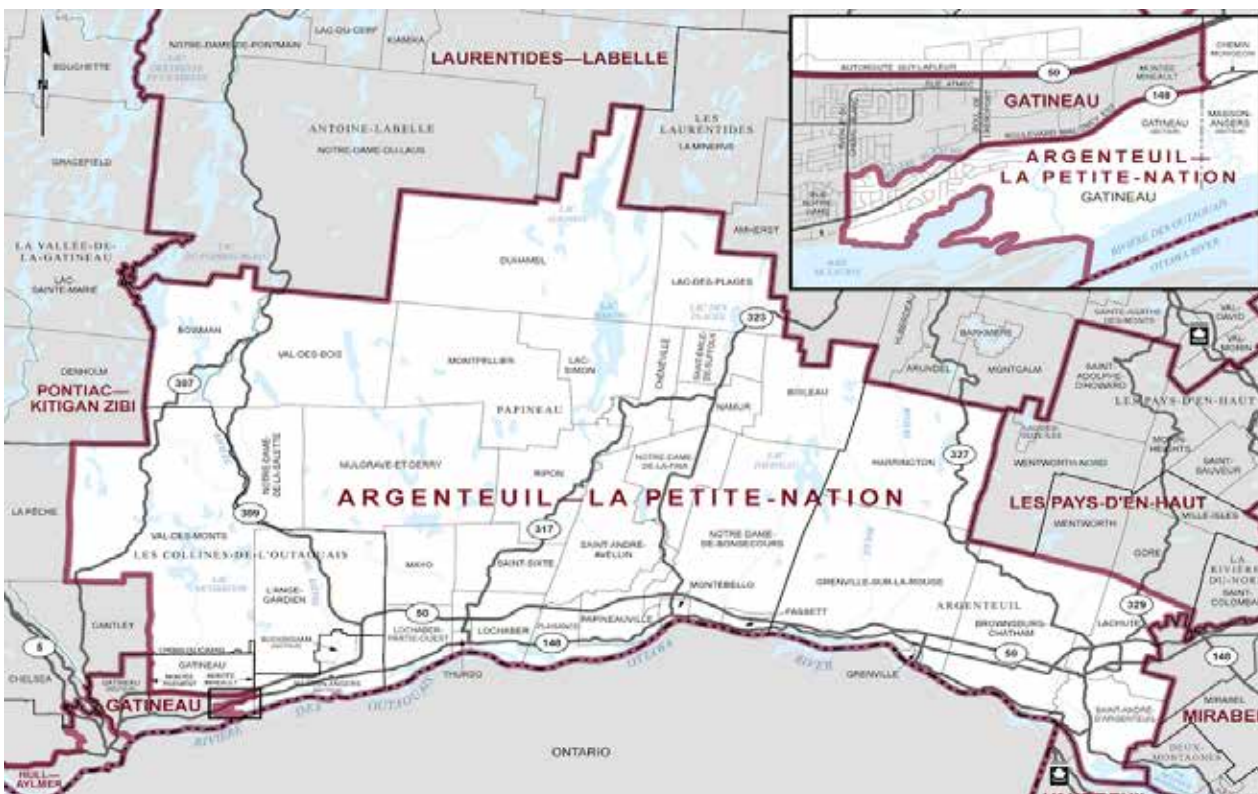
GREEN PARTY OF CANADA (GPC): BERTHA FUCHSMAN-SMALL

- Bertha Fuchsman-Small is a retired family physician who worked with the James Bay Cree, as well as in Cote-des-neiges and Montreal. She has also worked in the Congo with Médecins sans Frontières. She is a volunteer at Grenville Elementary school and at Arks Harvest in Hawkesbury, a food sharing community organization. Fuchsman-Small is also an active member of Montreal Raging Grannies, a social justice organization.

PEOPLE'S PARTY OF CANADA (PPC): LINDSEY THERRIEN

- Lindsey Therrien is a mother and works in customer service and support. She is a part-time university student studying accounting and finance with the goal of developing her expertise in financial management. Therrien is the mother of four children.

For more information on the upcoming federal election visit the Elections Canada website.



2025 FEDERAL ELECTION



2025 FEDERAL ELECTION

Introducing the Pontiac-Kitigan Zibi candidates for the upcoming federal election



Sophie Chatel



Brian Nolan



Gilbert Whiteduck



Todd Hoffman



Sophie Demers
LJ Reporter

Canadians across the country will cast their vote in the next federal election on April 28th. The following is an introduction of the candidates from all parties running in the Pontiac-Kitigan Zibi electoral district:

LIBERAL PARTY OF CANADA (LPC): SOPHIE CHATEL

- Elected in 2021, Chatel is the incumbent Member of Parliament for the Pontiac-Kitigan Zibi riding. She was previously a public servant and has a law degree as well as a master's degree in taxation. She is the former head of the Tax Treaty Unit at the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Chatel has lived in the area since 2002.

CONSERVATIVE PARTY OF CANADA (CPC): BRIAN NOLAN

- Nolan is currently a Senior Program Officer for the Canadian Border Services Agency and has 25 years' experience in public service work in various government departments. He has a computer programming degree and has been an entrepreneur running an IT consulting company and previously co-owning a food store in Ottawa. The candidate volunteered with Des Collines Minor Hockey, having held the role of President and Vice-President.

Bloc Québécois (BQ): As of publi-

cation, the candidate is yet to be announced. Candidates have until April 7 to announce their candidacy.

NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY (NDP): GILBERT WHITEDUCK

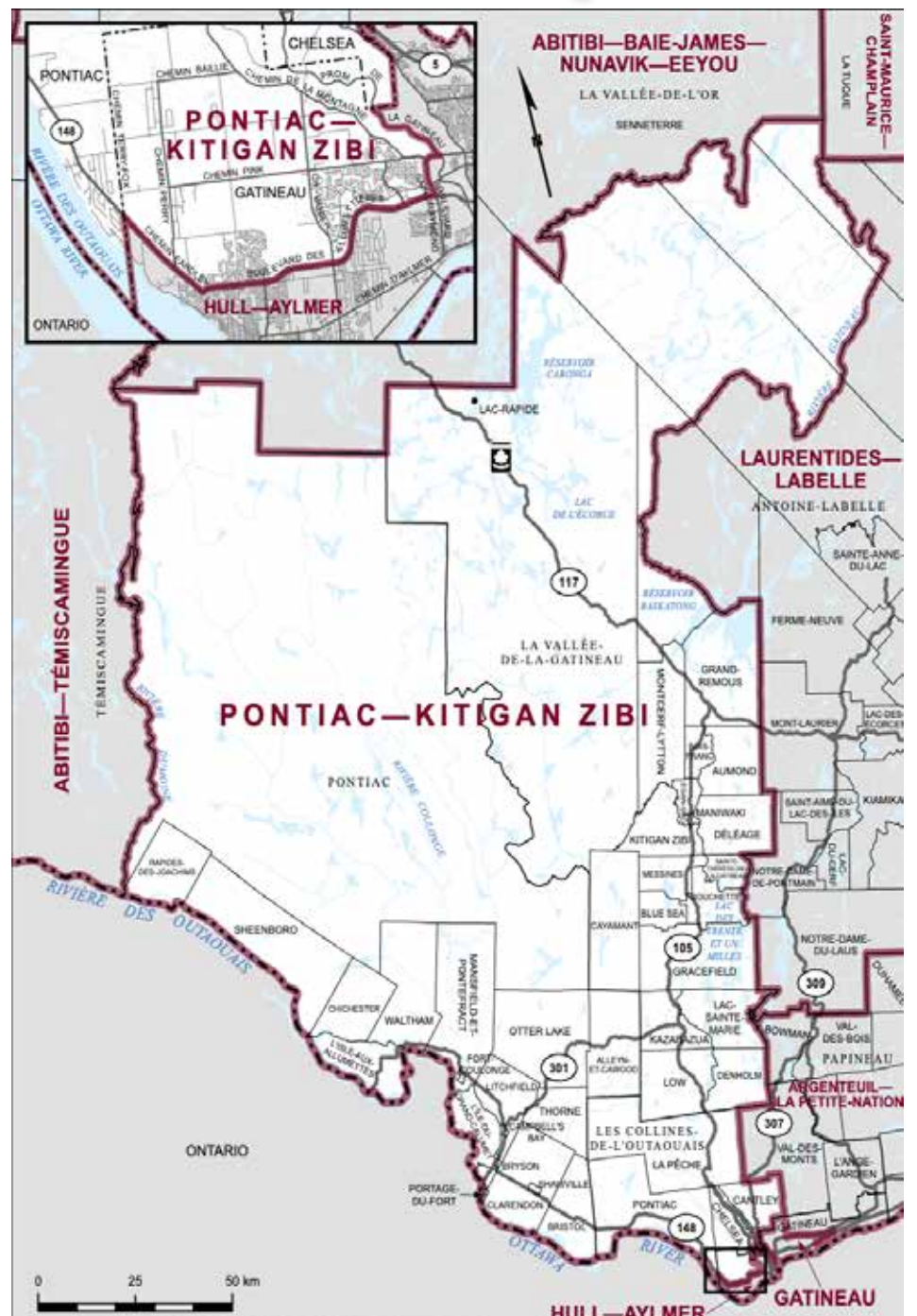
- Whiteduck was born and raised in Pontiac Kitigan-Zibi. He has served on the band council for Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg for 20 years, including seven years as Chief. The candidate has worked for over 30 years in education. Whiteduck has four university degrees. He is known as a strong advocate for his community. He also served as Senior Education Advisor with the First Nations Education Council for two years.

Green Party of Canada (GPC): As of publication, the candidate is yet to be announced. Candidates have until April 7 to announce their candidacy.

PEOPLE'S PARTY OF CANADA (PPC): TODD HOFFMAN

- Hoffman is a former member of the Canadian Armed Forces. Later, he became an entrepreneur, running a construction company and a microbrewery before taking his current position as a high school teacher. Hoffman was involved with the Pontiac Chamber of Commerce for many years. He has served as president and is currently vice-president of the organization.

For more information on electoral districts and how to vote, visit the Elections Canada website.



2025 FEDERAL ELECTION



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Introducing the Gatineau Candidates for the upcoming federal election



Rachid Jemmah



Steven MacKinnon



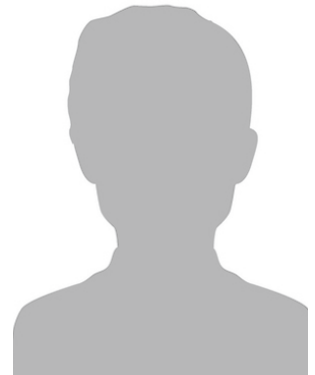
Richard Nadeau



Kethlande Pierre



Mathieu Saint-Jean



Daniel Simoncic



Sophie Demers
LJ Reporter

Canadians across the country will cast their vote for the next federal election on April 28. The following is an introduction of the candidates from all parties running in the Gatineau electoral district:

RIDING: GATINEAU

RACHID JEMMAH, GREEN PARTY OF CANADA (GPC)

- Rachid Jemmah previously studied real estate. He has been a manager for McDonald's restaurants in the region

for over 20 years during which he helped his community during the 2017 floods and the 2018 tornado. Annually, Jemmah participates in the Grand McDon event that helps fundraise for sick children. He is the father of three children he is raising in Gatineau.

STEVEN MACKINNON, LIBERAL PARTY OF CANADA (LPC)

- Steven Mackinnon was first elected as Gatineau's MP in 2015. He was recently appointed Minister of Jobs and Families and was previously the Minister of Labour and Seniors. Mackinnon also held the role of Chief Government Whip and parliamentary secretary to the Minister of Public Services and Procurement. This will

be MacKinnon's fourth time running as the Liberal candidate for Gatineau.

RICHARD NADEAU, BLOC QUÉBÉCOIS (BQ)

- Richard Nadeau served as MNA in Gatineau from 2006 to 2011. He has a master's degree in educational administration and three bachelor's degrees (history, social sciences and education). He was co-chair of the Canada-Palestine Friendship Group. Nadeau is an active community member serving as President of the Coopérative des consommateurs de la Laiterie de l'Outaouais and Vice-President of the Société d'Histoire de l'Outaouais.

KETHLANDE PIERRE, CONSERVATIVE PARTY OF CANADA (CPC)

- Kethlande Pierre is Deputy Director of the National Client Service Centre at the Canadian Intellectual Property Office. She has a master's degree in industrial engineering from École Polytechnique de Montréal, as well as a bachelor's from Telfer School of Management at the University of Ottawa. She was recently awarded the King Charles III Coronation Medal. Pierre was also the recipient of Gatineau's 2020 Woman of Influence Award.

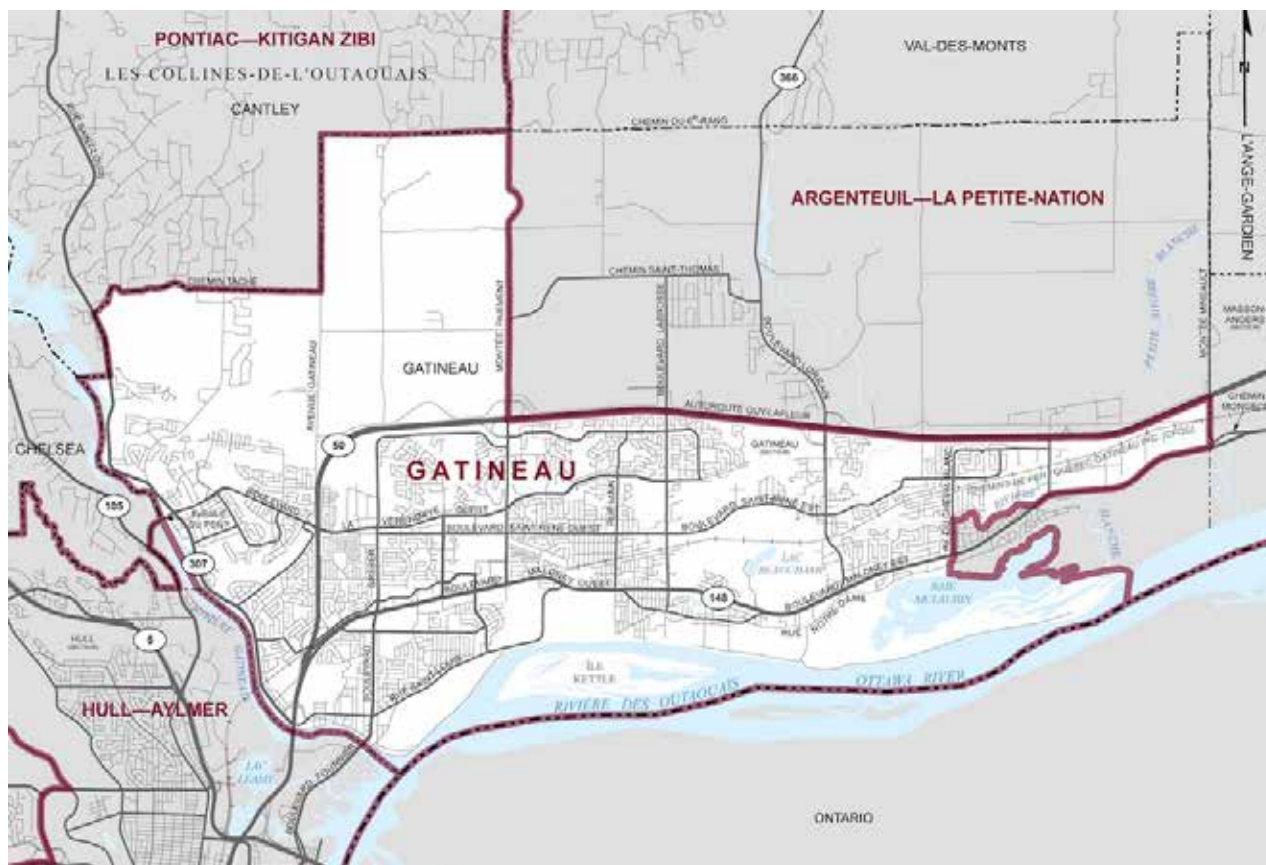
MATHIEU SAINT-JEAN, PEOPLE'S PARTY OF CANADA (PPC)

- Mathieu Saint-Jean ran for Mayor of Gatineau in the 2024 by-election. He has experience in customer service and human resources. According to the CBC, Saint-Jean pled guilty in 2023 to obstructing a police officer in 2021 and, at the time, was discharged with conditions. Later, he told Radio-Canada that the incident was related to mandatory COVID-19 masking in a store.

DANIEL SIMONCIC, NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY (NDP)

- No information has been released about the candidate at press time.

For more information about the electoral district and how to vote, visit the Elections Canada Website.



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Introducing the Aylmer-Hull Candidates for the upcoming federal election



Greg Fergus



Jill Declare



Alice Grondin



Pascale Matecki



Frédéric Morin-Paquette



Jean-François D'Aoust



Sophie Demers
LJ Reporter

Canadians across the country will cast their vote for the next Prime Minister of Canada on April 28th. The following will introduce the candidates from all parties running in the Aylmer-Hull electoral district:

LIBERAL PARTY OF CANADA (LPC): GREG FERGUS

- Greg Fergus has been the Hull-Aylmer Member of Parliament (MP) since 2015. He is currently the Speaker of the House of Commons and served as Parliamentary secretary as well as President of the treasury board. Fergus is a founding member of the Parliamentary Black Caucus. Before becoming a politician, he worked in the public and private sector and has experience working in the academic sector as well as with not-for-profits.

CONSERVATIVE PARTY OF CANADA (CPC): JILL DECLARE

- Jill Declare has lived in Aylmer since childhood. She is currently a member's assistant for Garnett Genuis, a conservative MP from Alberta and has been involved in the Conservative Party of Canada since 1993. She has a 25-year career aiding elected officials in the house of commons. Declare refers to herself as a "common sense" candidate that is proud of her French and English heritage.

BLOC QUÉBÉCOIS (BQ): ALICE GRONDIN

- Alice Grondin has a bachelor's degree in healthcare administration, a master's in business administration, another master's in human resources, and is currently completing a doctorate in business administration. She has founded a running club in her community and has volunteered many hours with local organizations such as food banks. Grondin has experience with Médecins sans Frontières in both Montreal and Toronto.

NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY (NDP): PASCALE MATECKI

- Pascale Matecki has lived in the area for 15 years and is the President of the Quartier Wright Residents Association. She volunteers with Action Quartier, an organization focused on promoting citizen involvement. Matecki has presided over the Lac-des-Fées school council. As a post-doctorate at the University of Ottawa, she led projects and taught a variety of courses. She also developed anti-discrimination training with AGIR Outaouais.

GREEN PARTY OF CANADA (GPC): FRÉDÉRIC MORIN-PAQUETTE

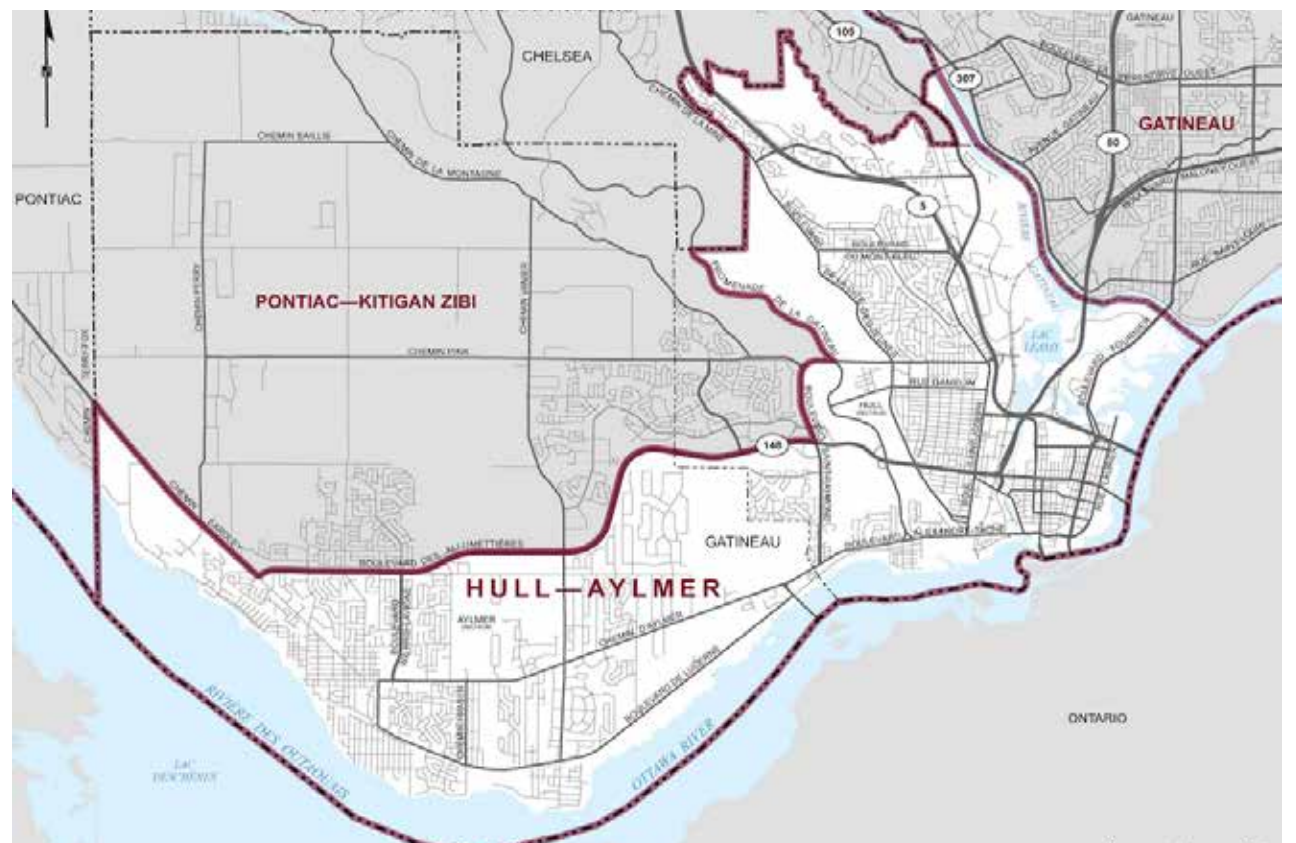
- Frédéric Morin-Paquette grew up in the Outaouais

region before pursuing post-secondary education in Montreal to become a teacher. He worked as a teacher at a French school in British Columbia before taking his current position as a fifth-grade teacher at the École Internationale du Mont-Bleu. Morin-Paquette believes social, and climate justice are two major challenges we face today.

PEOPLE'S PARTY OF CANADA (PPC): JEAN-FRANÇOIS D'AOUST

- At the time of publication there is limited information available on D'Aoust academic or career achievements.

For more information about the upcoming election visit the Election Canada website.



Four arrested after armed assault and attempted robbery on Gatineau trail



Tashi Farmilo
LJJ Reporter

An attempted armed robbery along a popular urban trail in Gatineau has led to the arrest of four individuals, highlighting growing concerns about public safety in the area. On the afternoon of April 6, police responded to reports of an attempted robbery and assault near the Ruisseau-de-la-Brasserie trail, close to Morin Street in the Hull sector.

According to the Gatineau Police Service, the incident occurred around 4:45 pm when a group of four indi-

viduals approached a pedestrian and attempted to steal their bag. The victim resisted and sustained a hand injury from a bladed weapon. The suspects fled the scene without managing to take the bag. Responding officers quickly gathered information from witnesses and were able to locate and arrest the suspects shortly afterward.

Police later obtained a warrant to search a nearby tent, where they reportedly recovered evidence linked to the attack. The four suspects — Francis Arbic-Petrin, 30, Audrey Linteau-Godin, 21, Rosy Lisa Sabourin, 28, and Brandon Vendette-Whissel, 26 — were

all charged with armed robbery, assault with a weapon, and uttering threats. Two of them face additional charges for failing to comply with court orders.

Since January 2022, the city has recorded over 6,000 cases of assault, more than 3,000 acts of mischief, 344 incidents of armed robbery, and seized 207 firearms, according to data published by the City of Gatineau. The Ruisseau-de-la-Brasserie trail, a popular path for cyclists and pedestrians, has seen occasional episodes of violence in recent years, often prompting calls for increased surveillance and patrols.

City officials and police have pointed

to broader regional dynamics, including spillover from gang-related violence in neighboring Ottawa, as contributing factors in local crime rates. In 2022, the city adopted a five-year staffing plan to add 71 new police and civilian positions. The Gatineau police also participate in provincial initiatives aimed at preventing gun violence and improving community relations.

The investigation into the April 6 incident is ongoing, and police are encouraging anyone with information to come forward and call police at 819-246-0222.



BECAUSE WE HAVE YOUR ACTIVITIES AT HEART COMMUNITY EVENTS

5e BARON HOUSE PARTY WITH DJ DOUBLE DOWN on April 12, 2025, from 8 p.m. to midnight at Microbrasserie 5e Baron located at 55 rue Principale, Gatineau, QC. Aylmer asked, and we listened! We're launching a brand-new series of House Parties with DJ! DJ DoubleDown will be there to keep you dancing all night long with an eclectic mix of remixes, house, and disco rap.

AYLMER LEGION BRANCH 33. April 15 at noon: Seniors & Friends Lunch followed by karaoke, dance, games & door prizes. We celebrate Easter! Tickets are available in advance at the Branch. \$25 pp, taxes included. -Knitting Group "A humanitarian initiative" get-togethers on Mondays from 1 pm to 3 pm. -Members and non-members, all are welcome at the Aylmer Legion 59 Bancroft Street, Gatineau (Aylmer sector), Qc. For more information regarding our services, events, or hall rentals, please email us at Aylmerlegion33@gmail.com.

BINGO AYDELU 94, rue du Patrimoine, Gatineau (secteur d'Aylmer). Tous les mercredis soir / Every Wednesday night 18 h 45 / 6:45 p.m. Ouverture des portes 16 h / Doors open at 4 p.m. 3 800 \$ en prix / in prizes. 18 ans et plus / 18 years and older. Places limitées / Lim-

ited places. Nouveau programme / New program. Service de cantine / Canteen service. 819 684-7888 ou/or 819 230-2240.

EASTER AT OLD CHELSEA SQUARE: Sunday, April 20, 1 pm to 4 pm. Spring is just around the corner, and rumor has it... The Square Rabbit is coming to Old Chelsea Square to celebrate Easter! Come and meet him, and enjoy a festive atmosphere with entertainment for the whole family! Music, surprises... everything you need for a great Easter outing. Come celebrate Easter with your family. 248 Chemin Old Chelsea, Old Chelsea, QC.

HEART AND SOUL SINGERS SPRING 2025 CONCERT Conducted by Daniel Lafleur Sunday, April 27, 2025, at 2 PM, Our Lady of Victory Church 490, Charles Street, Buckingham, QC. Tickets 10\$ (free for children 12 years and under). For tickets in advance: Sandra 819-664-8555. Coffee and desserts will be served. www.heartandsoulsingers.com

LA GRANDE FRIPE IS BACK THIS SPRING! On Saturday, April 12, and Sunday, April 13, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The largest sale of second-hand clothing

and accessories in the Outaouais region. The event will feature different booths daily. Discoveries await you every time you visit! We've got some exciting new items in store for you this year. Visit us at 425 Boulevard Saint-Joseph in Gatineau and take advantage of free admission and parking. Bring a reusable bag for your purchases. See you soon!

LA PRINCIPALE SE SUCRE LE BEC! Great entertainment awaits the whole family at this festive event on APRIL 12-13, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.! On the program: taffy on snow, maple products, maple alcohol, maple soap, maple pastries, maple wood gifts, and other products, each more wow than the last. Junkyard Symphony, juggler, L'As des Jeux, face painting and tattooing for kids. Nearly 40 exhibitors along the Principale street, between Le Monastère (161 rue Principale) and 5e Baron (55 rue Principale), Gatineau (Aylmer). Come and enjoy gourmet family fun!

LE GRAND ORCHESTRE GRANDE RIVIÈRE PRÉSENTE LA SYMPHONIE GASTRONOMIQUE DU PRINTEMPS. Souper-concert accompagné en musique par des classiques du cinéma, suivi d'une soirée dansante. Le 26 avril 2025 à 18 h 30 à l'école secondaire Grande-Rivière 100, rue Broad, Gatineau (Aylmer). 100 \$/personne (pourboire et taxes inclus). <https://www.grandorchestregrandriviere.com/symphonie-du-printemps-2025/>

LUSKVILLE FARM HOP SPRING FAIR May 3 and 4, 2025, from 10 am to 3 pm. Chemin Crégheur area, Luskville, QC. www.luskville.farm-hop.com

MOTHER'S DAY GIFT MARKET AT GALERIES AYLMER Saturday, May 3, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Galeries Aylmer 181 rue Principale, Gatineau, QC. The must-attend event to find the perfect gift for your mom! Our event is the perfect place to discover unique and original treasures that will touch the hearts of your loved ones. Come and meet talented artisans who have so much to offer! Each with its style and story, they'll offer you creations made with passion and know-how. You'll find jewelry, decorations and natural beauty products to delight your mother, and much more besides! Why choose our market? Authenticity: Each item is made with care and love, guaranteeing a unique gift. Support for local artisans: By buying from us, you directly support talented artisans and contribute to the local economy. Quality: Our exhibitors select the finest materials for their creations, ensuring high-quality, long-lasting products. Join us for a day of discovery and good cheer in a warm and friendly atmosphere. We look forward to seeing you there to celebrate all mothers and offer them the very best.

THE CLASSIFIEDS



CLASSIFIED RATES

\$7,43 a week (+ taxes) = \$8,54 for 15 words
10¢ each additional word

Call Dominique for your classified ads - Deadline Tuesday noon
1 800 486-7678 or 819 684-4755
Email: classifieds@bulletinaylmer.com

BIRTHDAYS AND EVENTS

WOOPII BALLOONS - PARTY SUPPLIES & RENTAL SHOP Beautiful eco-friendly balloons for your parties, celebrations, baby showers, gender reveals, weddings, or any special occasion. Located at 153-B Principale Street, Gatineau (Aylmer) QC. 819 682-6560. party@woopii.com.

FUN FÊTE DECORATION SERVICE for weddings, birthdays, christenings, and any other events. Balloon arrangements; preparation of goodie bags for children's parties; rental of chair covers, tablecloths, etc.; rental of cotton candy, popcorn, or snow cone machines; rental of foot spa machines; rental of inflatable play structures. Phone: 873 353-2399. Email: funfete.2019@gmail.com.

CHURCHES

GRACE GATINEAU (PRESBYTERIAN), 325 Boul. de la Cité-des-Jeunes in Hull. Worship service every Sunday at 10:30 am. An English-speaking church that is French-friendly. For more information: gracegatineau.ca or visit our Facebook page.

COURSE

ANGLAIS - FRANÇAIS - ALLEMAND - ESPAGNOL Formation intensive privée. Adultes sans fumée! Maison ou bureau. Enfants : 6 ans et plus. Info : primer.traductor@gmail.com

FINANCES

ACCÈS VOLUNTEER ACTION CENTRE OFFERS A FREE TAX CLINIC for low-income residents of Aylmer (\$35,000 for a single person; \$45,000 for a couple). To make an appointment, please call 819-684-2242.

MAKE YOUR AD POP IN COLOR!

FOR RENT

LOCAL COMMERCIAL À LOUER AU SOUS-SOL + OU - 2 000 PIEDS CARRÉS avec stationnement. Situé au 78, rue Principale, Gatineau (Aylmer), QC. Disponibilité et prix à discuter. Contacts : Gilbert 418-321-1164, ou André 819-661-9923.

HALL RENTAL

AYDELU RECREATIONAL CENTRE 94 Rue du Patrimoine (Aylmer sector). Community hall rental, perfect for all kinds of occasions. For reservations, call Pauline at 819 921-3891.

HALL RENTAL FOR ALL OCCASIONS. With or without bar service; kitchen; air conditioner; Wifi; TV; dance floor. Questions? Aylmerlegion33@gmail.com or leave a detailed message at 819 684-7063.

HEALTH

M FITNESS your local gym. My health, a lifestyle! 181 Principale Street, Gatineau (Aylmer Sector) QC. aylmer@mfitness.ca 819-682-8558. mfitness.ca.

HELP WANTED

COLLECTION OF NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS AND HYGIENE PRODUCTS FOR THE AYLMEYER FOOD CENTRE: People who want to make a difference and help our community can drop off their donations at the *Aylmer Bulletin* office, located in the Galeries Aylmer, from Monday to Friday during business hours (9 a.m.-5 p.m.). Thank you for your generosity!

JOB OFFERS

ADVERTISING CONSULTANT POSITION. Help local businesses increase their visibility and sales. Interpersonal skills are essential. You must be bilingual and own a vehicle. Responsibilities: Offer innovative advertising solutions to local merchants, provide customer service to advertisers, apply different marketing strategies, and expand print and web sales. Send your résumé by email to the *Aylmer Bulletin* at pub@bulletinaylmer.com.

MASSAGE

O! SI NATUREL MASSAGE THERAPY & SKIN CARE All our therapists are accredited by a Massage Therapy Association and can issue receipts for insurance. Appointments are available from Monday to Friday between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. We are located at 153 Rue Principale, Gatineau (Aylmer). Book your appointment today. 819 682-8888.

MISCELLANEOUS

QCNA offers advertisers a one-order, one-bill service. Call us for details on reaching English Quebec and, through classified ads, French Quebec and every other Canadian province and territory. Contact us at sales@qcna.qc.ca or 819 893-6330. For details, visit <https://qcna.qc.ca/>.

SERVICES

C.L. LANDSCAPING SPECIALIST 4-SEASON PROPERTY MAINTENANCE. We specialize in designing and building landscapes in consultation with our customers to ensure 100% satisfaction. COREY LALONDE 613 608-8902 (Aylmer) Gatineau, QC. c.l.landscapingspecialist@gmail.com

PAYSAGE ALEX abattage et émondage, taille de haies de cèdres, bois de chauffage, déneigement. Info : 819 360-7218 ou www.paysagealex.ca

SERVICE DE TAILLE DE HAIES DE CÈDRES HAUTES. 35 ans d'expérience. Téléphonnez au 819 664-1750.

HIGH CEDAR HEDGE TRIMMING SERVICE. 35 years of experience. Call 819 664-1750.



WANTED

WE PAY CASH FOR ANTIQUE AND VINTAGE ITEMS, including wristwatches and pocket watches (working or not), Canadian and American coins, paper money, tobacco pipes, costume jewelry, brooches, bracelets, necklaces, sterling, gold, fishing lures, rods, reels, Hot Wheels, dinky toys, tin toys, marbles, Christmas ornaments, figurines, and bronze statues. Call Ray at 819-669-5690.



Offre d'emploi | Help Wanted CONSEILLER (ÈRE) SALES REPRESENTATIVE

Vous aimez aider votre communauté? Rejoignez l'équipe du Bulletin dès aujourd'hui! Nous avons une place au sein de notre service de publicité pour une personne dynamique qui aime les gens.

Tu es dynamique et tu as de l'entregent à revendre?

Le *Bulletin d'Aylmer*, le *West Quebec Post* et le *Bulletin de Gatineau* t'offre un poste à ta mesure!

Tes responsabilités :

- Proposer une multitude de solutions publicitaires innovatrices aux commerçants locaux
- Assurer le service à la clientèle auprès des annonceurs
- Mettre en application différentes stratégies de marketing
- Développer les ventes pour l'imprimé et le Web
- Bilingue

Contribuer au succès d'un média local et au rayonnement des entreprises d'ici, ça te dit?
POSTULE DÈS MAINTENANT!

Love to help the community? Join the Bulletin team today. We have an opening in our Advertising department for a dynamic person who loves people.

Are you dynamic and have people skills?

The *Aylmer Bulletin*, the *West Quebec Post* and the *Gatineau Bulletin* can give you a job that suit you!

Your responsibilities :

- Offer a multitude of innovative advertising solutions to local merchants
- Provide customer service to advertisers
- Apply different marketing strategies
- Expand print and web sales
- Be bilingual

Do you want to contribute to the success of local media and the influence of local businesses?
APPLY NOW!



Postuler : | Apply to : pub@bulletinaylmer.com

Heart and Soul Singers

CONCERT

Conducted by / Dirigé par
DANIEL LAFLEUR

Spring
Printemps
2025



Dimanche le 27 avril, 2025 /14h00
Église Our Lady of Victory
490, rue Charles, Buckingham, QC

Billets 10\$

Gratuit pour les enfants 12 ans et moins

Pour billets à l'avance

Sandra 819 664 8555

Café et desserts vous seront servis

Sunday April 27 2025 /2:00pm
Our Lady of Victory Church
490 Charles St., Buckingham, QC

Tickets \$10

Free for children 12 years and under

For tickets in advance

Sandra 819 664 8555

Coffee and desserts will be served