



PAGE
5
VICTOR
Laurin

Musings of an
old coot

West Quebec Post

HULL • CHELSEA • AYLMEYER • BUCKINGHAM • LUSKVILLE • WAKEFIELD • PONTIAC



PAGE
5
GWYNNE
Dyer

On not draining
the swamp

1

Yearly subscription \$39.09 w/taxes

VOLUME 131 | EDITION 5 | LE VENDREDI 10 AVRIL 2026 | FRIDAY APRIL 10, 2026 | 181, RUE PRINCIPALE, BUREAU C10, GATINEAU, QC J9H 6A6

Chatel sees Gatineau Park and Kidjimaninan in new federal strategy



Federal officials gathered in Wakefield on March 31 to launch Canada's new \$3.8-billion nature strategy. From left: Sophie Chatel, Joanne Thompson, Prime Minister Mark Carney, Julie Dabrusin and Nathalie Provost. (TF)

PHOTO: COURTESY



Tashi Farmilo
LJJ Reporter

Sophie Chatel, MP for Pontiac–Kitigan Zibi, says the federal government's new \$3.8-billion nature strategy, announced in Wakefield on March 31, is the kind of backing local conservation efforts in the Outaouais have needed for years.

Prime Minister Mark Carney unveiled A Force of Nature: Canada's Strategy to Protect Nature, which sets a target of bringing 30 per cent of Canadian lands and waters under protection by 2030. Chatel said the plan speaks to something fundamental about life in this part of Quebec.

"From hunters and fishers to hikers, spending time in nature is core to who we are as Canadians," Chatel said. "Our lands put food

on our tables, supply building materials and fibres for manufacturing, and help keep our air and water healthy and clean. Safeguarding our land, lakes and rivers also helps protect our communities from the impacts of extreme climate events, while advancing reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples. That is why this strategy is so essential."

Continued on page 2

Des Collines police seek information to identify Cantley road rage suspect



Sophie Demers

The Sécurité Publique MRC des Collines-de-l'Outaouais is seeking any information that could help in identifying a person of interest in an alleged road rage case. The incident took place in Cantley on March 26 at approximately 9:30 pm.

According to information provided by police, the incident started when the female driver stopped at the intersection of Des Tourterelles and Bouchette roads.

The driver started chasing another vehicle in a residential area. The pursuit took place on various roads and streets including: Bouchette, Mont-Joël, Denis, des Pins, Geres as well as Impasse des Conifers.

On Impasse des Conifers, the drivers of both vehicles allegedly got into an argument before the suspect eventually fled the scene. Authorities describe the suspect as a white, English-speaking female, age 40 to 50, with chestnut hair. The vehicle is a white sport-utility vehicle registered in Ontario, with LED and fog lights.

The police ask anyone with information

that could help them identify the driver to contact Detective Sergeant Gabriel Ladouceur at 819-459-2422 ext. 3299. People who live on the streets mentioned and have images or video from home security cameras are also encouraged to contact Detective Sergeant Ladouceur.

Farm owners devastated after livestock killed in dog attack

Page 2

Quebec announces \$995k to help English-speaking Quebecers navigate the health system

Page 3

Quebec's agronomists say a 50-year-old law is holding agriculture back

Page 6

Gatineau police arrest two men for attempted murder committed last October

Page 7

Message about recycling newsprint in Quebec

Page 11

Outaouais
ORTHODONTICS
Your smile. Our specialty.

>190118_07

The first and only full-time orthodontic practice in Aylmer!

See page **3**

UQO joins Quebec Native Women to map missing and murdered Indigenous women



Tashi Farmilo
LJJ Reporter

Quebec Native Women (QNW) and the Université du Québec en Outaouais unveiled a provincial map in Quebec City on March 31 documenting 124 cases of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and two-spirit people in Quebec since 1950, including cases in the Outaouais.

The map covers the period from 1950 to 2026 and was funded in part by Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada. Nearly 220 life stories were researched and honoured in total.

The Outaouais accounts for 11 cases, placing it fifth provincially behind Nunavik at 39, Montréal at 13, and Montérégie, Nord-du-Québec, and Côte-Nord at 10 each. Of the 124 cases province-wide, 96 involve women and girls who were murdered, 14 people remain missing, and 14 others were reported missing before being found dead.

The numbers tell only part of the story. QNW says the data unequivocally demonstrate that violence against Indigenous women, girls, and two-spirit people is not a thing of the past but a current, persistent, and systemic crisis, with many cases remaining invisible or difficult to document due to structural, administrative, and historical limitations.

Data from the Quebec Association of First Nations and Inuit Police Directors shows that in 2024 alone, more than 2,500 violence-related cases were opened across Quebec's 22 Indigenous police services. Director Pierre Simard said that figure captures only what enters the system. "The overall picture presented today reveals the gravity of the situation and a reality that can no longer be treated as a series of isolated cases. Too much violence still remains hidden," he said, adding that the project points toward an approach based on collaboration between police services, community



Quebec Native Women president Marjolaine Étienne joined partners and advisors to unveil a provincial map documenting 124 cases of missing and murdered Indigenous women in Quebec, pictured from left: Paul-André Perron, Strategic Advisor to the Coroner's Office; Pierre Simard, Director of the Quebec Association of First Nations and Inuit Police Directors; Bridget Tolley, member of the MMIWG2S+ mapping advisory committee; Étienne; and Laura Rock, Interim Executive Director of Quebec Native Women. (TF)

PHOTO: COURTESY OF QNW

organisations, and institutions.

UQO sociology professor Audrey Rousseau, who worked on the project, said it "documents a reality that remains too often overlooked in Quebec, by combining the strengths of quantitative and qualitative research between the university and the community. Despite the challenges related to accessibility and the fragmentation of institutional data, particularly police data, this project demonstrates the urgent need to act in order to obtain a more accurate picture of the situation and support the implementation of concrete actions."

QNW president Marjolaine Étienne said the map sheds light on a reality Indigenous communities have long been aware of. "Behind every circle on the map is a woman, a girl, a two-spirit person, a family, and a community. Today, we are not here merely to present data, but to issue a call for collective action. The safety of Indigenous women must become a priority for society as a whole and for the next government of Quebec."

An interactive version of the map is available at faq-qnw.org.

Farm owners devastated after livestock killed in dog attack



Mélissa Gélinas
LJJ Reporter

Lise R. Soucie and her husband, Larry Soucie, say they were confronted with a devastating scene after three of their pigs and a calf were killed by two dogs belonging to a neighbour. The incident occurred overnight on Feb. 26 at their property on chemin Morrissette in Mansfield. "That morning, my husband went to the barn to take care of the animals and noticed an unusual silence," said Soucie. "Normally, the pigs make noise when we come in, and we can see the cats." He then discovered the three pigs, covered in bite wounds, followed by the calf.

The couple believes the dogs entered through a small opening in the barricaded doors intended for their cats, then broke through the wooden enclosure fence to access the animals.

Losses are estimated at more than \$5,000. "This is our livelihood, and we put a lot of work into it," she said, noting her husband, 65, continues to devote his energy to the farm despite health issues.

Soucie said the dogs had been seen on their property before. In November, one allegedly nearly attacked her granddaughter while visiting the chickens before being driven off. "These dogs roam everywhere and are very aggressive," she said.

She added that neighbours have also reported seeing the dogs, which allegedly damaged property and left waste

behind. Several cats are also believed to have been killed. One neighbour told Soucie the dogs are believed to have killed all of her grandfather's cats.

The couple contacted the Sûreté du Québec (SQ), but no criminal charges were laid. Police attempted to speak with the neighbour, who refused to cooperate. "The SQ told us that since animals attacked other animals, there was nothing they could do," Soucie said.

However, the dog owner was fined \$1,144 under municipal bylaws for allowing the animals to roam off his property without restraint. According to SQ spokesperson Marc Tessier, no measures such as a leash or fence were in place to prevent the dogs from leaving the property.

According to Soucie, a patrol officer with the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) later attended the residence and observed the dogs covered in blood. Soucie says the neighbour admitted to the officer that the dogs were responsible.

"The officer advised him to make arrangements with us to cover the cost of our animals," Soucie told the Post, adding the neighbour has refused further communication.

While MRC Pontiac has an agreement with the SPCA for animal control, director general Kim Lesage said the MRC had not received any information about the incident. The SPCA patrol officer declined to comment and the Post was unable to reach the dog owner despite multiple calls. (Trans. PJ)

Chatel sees Gatineau Park and Kidjimaninan in new federal strategy

Continued from page 1

A central piece for the riding is the Kidjīmanīnān project, a Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg-led initiative whose name means "our canoe" in Algonquin. Working alongside the City of Gatineau and regional municipalities, the project aims to map and protect biodiversity across the Outaouais, where only a fraction of the land currently holds official protection. "The Kidjīmanīnān project, which I have championed since 2022, is exactly the kind of locally grounded conservation work that can help Canada meet its 30 by 30 goal, and this new strategy gives that kind of effort stronger federal backing," Chatel said.

She was equally pointed about Gatineau Park. Despite drawing millions of visitors annually, it has never been enshrined in federal legislation, leaving its boundaries vulnerable to changes without Parliamentary approval. Chatel is working with Senator Rosa Galvez on Bill S-229 to establish those protections. "Gatineau Park still lacks the legal protections it needs despite its ecological importance," she said.

The strategy also creates a financing taskforce to steer private money toward conservation. "This is an important recognition that protecting nature also requires long-term financial tools and incentives. For regions like ours, that kind of thinking can help finance our conservation initiatives," Chatel said.

New Commissioner of Official Languages pledges support for Quebec anglophones



Tashi Farmilo
LJI Reporter

Kelly Burke was appointed Canada's Commissioner of Official Languages on March 30, pledging to support both official language minority communities and make full use of the modernised Official Languages Act to protect language rights across the country.

The commissioner is an independent officer of Parliament responsible for overseeing compliance with the Official Languages Act, which guarantees Canadians the right to access federal services in either English or French and requires the federal government to support the development of francophone and anglophone minority communities across the country.

Burke comes to the role with a career spanning French immersion teaching, law, and service as French Language Services Commissioner of Ontario. She said she intends to build on the work of her predecessor, Raymond Th  berge, and described the modernised Act as offering stronger instruments to protect minority communities and hold federal institutions to their obligations.

Among her stated early priorities is direct engagement with Quebec's English-speaking community. On her first day in the role she met with TALQ, an organisation representing Quebec anglophones. "I would like to begin by emphasizing that one of my priorities as the new Commissioner of Official Languages is to engage in constructive dialogue with leaders of Quebec's English-speaking community, in order to listen to their concerns

Kelly Burke, Canada's new language watchdog, says protecting French and supporting Quebec's English-speaking minority are not competing goals, and she is already acting on that conviction. (TF)

PHOTO: COURTESY



and better understand their priorities," Burke said.

Burke described Quebec's English-speaking minority as an integral part of Quebec society, recognised under the Official Languages Act as a minority language community in Canada. She acknowledged the particular pressures anglophones in Quebec face in the areas of language policy, education, and access to health services, and said distinct realities exist among English-speaking minority communities in the province just as they do among francophone minorities elsewhere in Canada.

She also pushed back against what she characterised as a persistent misunderstanding of Quebec's anglophone population, arguing they should be seen as allies in the protection and promotion of French, and that their contributions to strengthening the language are too often overlooked in public discourse.

"The protection of French must not come at the expense of the language rights of the English-speaking minority community. These commitments are not mutually exclusive, and one must not be pursued to the detriment of the other."

Quebec announces \$995k to help English-speaking Quebecers navigate the health system



Sophie Demers
LJI Reporter

The province has provided R  seau communautaire de sant   et de services sociaux (RCSSS) with \$995,000 in funding with the objective to support English-speaking residents navigate the health care system. This was announced on April 2 by Christopher Skeete, Minister of International Relations and Francophonie, Minister responsible for Relations with English-speaking Quebecers, and Minister responsible for the Fight against Racism.

"Access to health care and social services must be equitable for all Quebecers," said Minister Skeete. "With this pilot project, we are taking concrete action by offering services tailored to the needs of Quebec's English-speaking communities. I welcome the support of the RCSSS organization, which has all the expertise necessary for the success of this project."

The funding will support the RCSSS's Accompanying

Guides for English-speaking patients (GAP) project. The project started in Quebec City with one patient support guide that aided English-speaking patients navigate the primarily French health-care system. The project aims to bridge the language gap and create better health outcomes for patients.

The funding will expand the program by adding 11 patient support guides, three full-time and eight part-time, for nine regions across Quebec. These guides will accompany English-speakers through the health care system and ensure all information is understood by both clinician and patient. GAP is a pilot project that will take place over the next year ending on March 31, 2027.

"The RCSSS is extremely proud of this announcement, which builds on eight years of expertise developed in Quebec City in patient support and will now extend the program to eight other regions of the province," said Jennifer Johnson, Executive Director of RCSSS. "We have witnessed, on the ground, the concrete effect that adapted support can have when language barriers

complicate access to care and social services. Studies are clear: these barriers can affect the quality of care and lead to less favourable health outcomes. With these additional resources, our patient support guides will be able to intervene in a personalized way to mitigate these barriers, while strengthening the essential links between patients and the health-care system."

Quebec acknowledges that anglophones face barriers in accessing health and social services in the current system. They also face difficulties accessing and understanding medical information in their language which can lead to misunderstandings.

"Both official languages are at the heart of our identity and represent a great strength for Canada. Language should not be a barrier to health. And through this investment, we are taking concrete action to ensure that all Canadians have access to safer, quality health care and services, including English-speaking communities in Quebec," said Marc Miller, federal Minister of Canadian Identity and Culture and Minister responsible for Official Languages.

Outaouais
ORTHODONTICS
Your smile. Our specialty.
Dr. Brent C  t  , DMD, MSc, Dip Ortho, FRCD(C)
Certified Specialist in Orthodontics

The first and only full-time orthodontic practice in Aylmer!

Specialised orthodontic care for children, teens and adults.

- Traditional braces and modern alternatives
- Ample free parking
- Flexible financial arrangements
- Evening and early morning hours



Glenwood Plaza, 210 Aylmer Road, Gatineau • 819.685.0808 • info@OrthoOutaouais.ca • NO REFERRAL REQUIRED!

Mathieu Lacombe refuses to answer questions in English about the Outaouais hospital



LILY Ryan

Either the new Outaouais hospital is only for francophones, or the present provincial government is letting slip its disregard for anglophone residents. At the press conference, April 7, about the new hospital, a *CBC* journalist asked Mr Lacombe a question in English. The response from him, Quebec's Minister of Culture and Communications, was "I'm not going to answer that; I don't want to confuse the [French-speaking] press". The room went quiet.

This hospital is for everyone in Outaouais. Journalists have the role and responsibility to represent the public,

to be that 'everyone'. Journalists are independent from governments and thus must be admitted to the halls of power; they must be answered when they ask questions.

In this election year, there was a major announcement about regional health care infrastructure and yet the long-sitting MNA for Pontiac was not at the event. André Fortin was elected to represent a major riding in Outaouais --Pontiac -- and is the Liberal critic for health and, thus, representative for a vast cohort of hospital users.

In an election year, everything is political. This is an election year. Any politician, spokesperson for a party or political aide who frames Lacombe's refusal to speak English as not political is

either naive or delusional.

Non-French speakers in Quebec know very well how to interpret being told English isn't an option. Mr Lacombe, as the Minister Responsible for the Outaouais, has sent a very public message on behalf of the CAQ government, struggling to stay in power. The content of the message is: 'neither history, nor current reality matters. Human rights don't matter. Access to health care in English doesn't matter. Outaouais is francophone. In fact, journalism doesn't matter.' Mr Lacombe not only swept the anglophone public into the trash bin, but he also insulted journalists by saying they'd be confused by an answer in English!

The Minister should know that

journalists are a bright bunch, capable of complex thought and multiple languages. In fact, it is the opinion of many journalists that governments are also capable of complex thought and multiple languages. Refusal to do so is, thus, a decision. And this decision was not only overt, but it was also made in public, April 7 when discussing a new hospital that belongs to all Quebec residents.

If the measure of a just society is how well it cares for the ill, building a new hospital (and staffing it) is step in the right direction. Now, what about measuring a just society by how well it cares for minorities? Apart from his Trump-like shrug, how does the Quebec Minister of Culture and Communication answer this question?

LETTERS

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

From church to arts center, Eaton offers a shining example



I found your editorial "From church to arts center" (January 2026) very interesting.

Have you visited any of the churches?

If you haven't, the church at Eaton, Qc closed as a church over 40 years ago.

For a tiny village to have kept the building looking beautiful and have a great mu-

seum is certainly a credit to the people.

Thought you would enjoy having this post card.

Anita Draper
Mrs Buster Draper
Drapers Corner



PHOTO : LILY RYAN

Editor's response: Thank you Mrs Draper. This kind note arrived at a perfect time. I carried the post card and your note with me as I headed to near Eaton, Qc. Although the museum was not open to the public at the hour and day I visited, please see the photograph here. As you write, the

community seems to have kept up maintenance beautifully since the post card was published (there is no date on the card).

Thank you for reading the *West Quebec Post* and your continued support.

- Lily Ryan

West Quebec Post

HULL • CHELSEA • AYLMEYER • BUCKINGHAM • LUSKVILLE • WAKEFIELD • PONTIAC



Unit C10, 181, rue Principale, Aylmer sector, Gatineau, Qc J9H 6A6
Tel. : 819 684-4755 | editor@westquebecpost.com

Subscriptions
\$33,95 (+ taxes)

Publishers: Sophia Ryan et Lily Ryan
Editor: Lily Ryan
Operations Manager: Lily Ryan
Business Consultant: Lynne Lavery | Accounts: Enel Polinice
Classifieds/Circulation: Dominique Leclair | classifieds@bulletinaylmer.com
Journalists: Marie-Eve Turpin, Sophie Demers, Reuel S. Amdur, Carl Hager, Greg Newing, Grace Richards, Mélissa Gélinas

Production Manager: Tanya Laframboise | production@bulletinaylmer.com
Advertising Manager: pub@bulletinaylmer.com
Publicité / Advertising: pub@bulletinaylmer.com
Advertising Consultants: Jerry Alary, Claude Kom, Brenda McGuire, Mélanie Ward
Web Content Manager: Alana Repstock
Delivery: Marc Charon, Melissa Mercer

Musings of an old coot



Upon turning 80, I felt that it might be appropriate to expound on topics that would interest others of that vintage. Was it a wise decision? Might I henceforward refer to myself as 'a wise old coot'? Upon further contemplation, it occurred to me that others close to me might have a vastly different interpretation. My sister, for example, who will read these words, would most certainly admonish me for using the term 'wise' in relation to myself. She would most probably declare, "Leave out the word 'wise'. You're just an old coot."

Therefore, in all future references to myself, I proudly proclaim that I am an old coot. However, as four score years and five approach, I am ever hopeful that eventful day might come when I will gain some semblance of wisdom. Until then, you may refer to me as 'an old coot', or perhaps 'a happy old coot'.

What is written now is based solely on the observations of an old coot. We, who are over eighty, have a lot in common. Yet, we are as different as trees in the forests, or birds that fly from them. Many of us have grey or white hair. Some of us may still have shades of colour on the roof. Some of us have thick hair and eyebrows; others have thinning hair and eyebrows. Some of us run marathons, some of us walk, some of us limp, use canes or other walking devices to get around. Some of us spend a portion of our time laughing merrily. Others have a more dour, or serious approach to life. We have all grown older, felt the aches and pains, had our moments of gratification, been disappointed, frustrated, depressed, anxious, had health problems, known wonderful times with our family and our friends. We've travelled, had great adventures, made mistakes and had our accomplishments.

As human beings, old or young, which one of us has not mourned the passing of a loved one? We, who are older, often reflect upon the past and of family members and others who are no longer with us. Many of us are of the legion of last family members. We have said our last farewells to grandparents, parents, siblings, aunts, uncles, cousins and schoolmates.

You'll see us at churches, at restaurants, malls, shopping, or just strolling along. If you're attentive, you might hear one of us exclaim: "Where did all those years go?"

Here's a few stanzas from this old coot to summarize:

We gather at malls and in sundry places
Asking 'where did the good times all go?'
Stories we tell fan the flames of our memory
Where the embers of younger years glow.

We are a legion of last family members
Who gather together with peers
We are the ones who remember the stories
Who share our laughter and tears.

We are the ones who share childhood memories
We're the ones who cherish each day
How often, too, we opine on the future
When we'll long since have gone away.

Finally, from *Pass It On*, a book of poems from the late Bill Garvey, who was born in Mayo, Quebec, in 1932, here is a gem of a poem:

THE OLD MAN

When I was a wee lad,
A long time ago,
My greatest ambition
Was to age and to grow.

To age meant get older,
And growing, meant tall,
To catch up to my brother's
Mark on the wall.

But, each time we'd measure,
It annoyed me to see
I gained a half inch,
But then, so had he.

Then, time started changing,
And meanings did too;
Aging meant wisdom,
And growing meant truth.

And I started to wonder
What's in my plan?
Will I be somebody,
Or just an old man?

But what is a somebody,
And who gets to say
That I'm wrong if I don't
Do things, this or that way?

So, I decided that truth
Was easy to find,
It's always been here
In the back of my mind.

And now I look back
And question my plan
Am I a somebody?
You're damn right I am
I am a somebody,
I'm an old man.

On not draining the swamp



by Gwynne DYER

AUTHOR, HISTORIAN & INDEPENDENT JOURNALIST

'When you're up to your ass in alligators, it's hard to remember that your original goal was to drain the swamp.' (Not very old folk saying)

Eighty years ago we set out to drain the swamp, because we feared that otherwise we would all be pulled under. At least fifty million people were dead after the greatest war in history, around half the cities in the northern hemisphere had been smashed flat, and the first nuclear weapons had just been dropped on Japanese cities.

People were in shock. They hadn't known how destructive war could get, and now they realised that the next big war would be incomparably worse: nuclear war. So they decided that in future the goal must be not to win wars but to end war.

Don't think they were naive. They were having this conversation standing hip-deep in the wreckage of the last war. Many of them had fought in it, and almost all of them had lost people close to them. So between 1945 and 1948 they wrote new rules that made war illegal.

Early in my career as a journalist I interviewed quite a lot of these people, and what struck me was the brutal realism most of them brought to the project. No airy-fairy stuff about 'brotherhood' and 'peace'; just hard-nosed calculations about how to contain or thwart the large number of countries that have designs their neighbours.

Their theory was that most wars have at least a large element of territorial dispute at their root. The wars tend to be about land that one side has lost in the past, or the other side believes should be theirs in the future, for reasons that do not seem to justify large-scale killing to people who are not involved in the confrontation.

Territory is what the great majority of wars have been about not just in historical times, but also in pre-historic times and even in the pre-human past. (See Netflix's 'Chimp Empire' for a brilliant documentary mini-series about a war between chimpanzee groups about territory.)

It's still mostly about land today. The Middle East wars of the past 75 years are all ultimately about the division of Palestine between Jews and Arabs in 1948. Putin's invasion of Ukraine is entirely about bringing at least the Slavic

parts of the old Soviet Union back under Moscow's control. India-Pakistan, North Korea-South Korea...There's an endless supply.

The solution chosen by these veterans of the worst war in history was simple: from now on, it will be against the law to change a border by force. Attacking another country will be a crime. Yes, this is very unfair to countries that have lost territory in the past and want it back, but that's the only way we can break the cycle.

Border changes by negotiation and compromise are permissible, but conquest is over. Past grievances have to stay in the past, or else we will end up fighting nuclear wars. We may not be able to stop every conquest, especially if the violator is a great power, but the rest of us will never acknowledge that what the aggressor has seized is really his.

It was not a perfect solution. It didn't even address the problem of guerilla wars and civil wars inside a single country, partly because that was too hard – there is usually no consensus on who is in the right – but also because they were unlikely to cause a nuclear world war. But it did the job.

No nuclear weapon has been used in war for eighty years. No great power has fought any other great power directly since 1953. (Proxies are sometimes employed.) We have been far more successful than anyone dared to hope in 1945. Even the number of deaths in war have fallen in every decade since then – until now.

The problem, I suspect, is generational turnover. The generation who wrote the new rules is long gone, but as recently as the 1990s I would regularly get lectured about the importance of the 'international rule of law' (code for the above rules) by diplomats at both the State Department in Washington and the Foreign Ministry in Moscow.

The general public was always hazy about the rules that gave us this long peace, but the people who ran the system continued to understand what the basic deal was for several more decades. However, I don't hear these arguments any more. The line has gone dead.

We set out to drain the swamp and we made some progress, but now the alligators are out in force and we have lost the plot.

Quebec's agronomists say a 50-year-old law is holding agriculture back



Tashi Farmilo
LJJ Reporter

Quebec's agronomist regulatory body, the Ordre des agronomes du Quebec (OAQ), is calling on the provincial government to seize a rare legislative moment and overhaul a law governing the farming profession that has not been meaningfully updated since Pierre Trudeau's first term in office.

The OAQ is roughly equivalent to a provincial law society or college of physicians, but for certified farm scientists. It oversees the province's more than 3,200 licensed agronomists and tabled a formal brief with the National Assembly on February 11, urging lawmakers to use Bill 15 as a vehicle to modernise rules that have been in place since 1973.

An agronomist is a science-based professional who advises farmers and agricultural businesses on everything from soil health and crop management to environmental sustainability and food safety. Think of them as the engineers of the farming world: the professionals who help ensure that food is grown safely, efficiently, and with the land's long-term health in mind. In Quebec, agronomists must be certified members of the OAQ to practise, in the same way that engineers or nurses must be licensed in their fields. Quebec's agricultural sector employs tens of thousands of workers across nearly 29,400 farms, generating billions in revenue and feeding families across the province and beyond.

Bill 15 is a sweeping piece of legislation designed to streamline Quebec's professional regulatory system, the framework that governs dozens of licensed professions across the province. While much of the public attention surrounding the bill has focused on healthcare, with debates over expanded roles for nurses and midwives, it also touches on many other professions, including agronomists. Multiple professional groups have described the bill as a rare opportunity to make lasting changes to how professionals are regulated in Quebec.

The OAQ's brief contains five main recommendations, but its core message is straightforward: the law that defines what an agronomist can and cannot do is so outdated that it has become a practical obstacle. The original legislation was written in an era before precision agriculture, climate modelling, environmental impact assessment, and modern agri-food science were even concepts, let alone core parts of the profession.

The OAQ is asking, in particular, for a clearer definition of which professional tasks are reserved exclusively for agronomists, and for an updated description of the profession's scope. Without these clarifications, both farmers and professionals are left in a murky legal grey zone when disputes arise over who is qualified to do what. The order is also highlighting the bill's potential to help address the workforce crisis gripping Quebec's agricultural sector. The labour shortage remains a major concern across the agri-food industry, with approximately 7,000 unfilled jobs in food processing alone in the province. By allowing clearer collaboration between agronomists and other certified professionals such as professional technologists, the OAQ argues the sector could make better use of existing expertise.

The OAQ is careful to note that it supports Bill 15 as written, and welcomes two specific changes the bill proposes. One removes a quirk in the current law that only considered agronomic work "professional practice" if it was performed for pay, a technicality that created enforcement headaches for the order. The other updates the OAQ's internal governance structure.

"These modifications represent a first step in the right direction," said Michel Montpetit, president of the OAQ. "They



The Ordre des agronomes du Quebec and its president, Michel Montpetit, say Bill 15 is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to bring the rules governing the province's 3,200 agronomists in line with the realities of modern agriculture. (TF)

PHOTO: COURTESY OF THE ORDRE DES AGRONOMES DU QUEBEC

New fishing rules coming to the Gatineau River this spring



Tashi Farmilo

Sport fishers on the Gatineau River near Chelsea and Gatineau will be subject to updated rules when the new season opens on April 1. Quebec's environment ministry announced the change on March 12.

To understand the update, it helps to know how fishing rules work in Quebec. The province divides its territory into 29 fishing zones, each with its own set of rules covering which fish can be kept, how many, and at what times of year. Zone 10 covers the Outaouais region, including the Gatineau River.

Under Zone 10's general rules, anglers may keep up to six walleye or sauger per day, but only walleye measuring between 37 and 53 centimetres. Pike is limited to six per day, bass to six, and lake trout to two, with a minimum size of 45 centimetres. Striped bass fishing is prohibited entirely in the zone.

Within any given zone, certain stretches of water can also carry what the government calls a "regulatory exception," a special set of rules that overrides the general zone rules for a specific part of a river or lake. The lower Gatineau River already had one of these exceptions in place. What is changing is how far it extends.

Previously, the exception did not cover the stretch of river between Île Marguerite, a small island in the river, and the Rapides-Farmer dam upstream. That gap meant the general Zone 10 rules applied there, leaving anglers navigating two different rulebooks depending on exactly where they were on the water.

Under the new rules, that gap is closed. The exception zone now runs continuously from the Rapides-Farmer hydroelectric dam all the way downstream to the first island below the Alonzo-Wright Bridge. The Rapides-Farmer dam sits on the river between Chelsea and Gatineau and has been in operation since the 1920s. The Alonzo-Wright Bridge carries Route 307 across the river in the Limbour area of Gatineau.

correct concrete obstacles to the application of the regulatory framework and improve the Order's capacity to carry out its oversight role."

The OAQ emphasises, however, that these fixes are modest compared to what is needed. It notes that substantial groundwork has already been done: years of consultations between the OAQ, the provincial agriculture ministry, the Office des professions du Quebec, and a wide range of industry stakeholders have already produced broad consensus on what reforms are needed. The OAQ argues those proposals could be added to Bill 15 as amendments without delaying the bill's passage.

The context is hard to ignore. According to the Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council, Quebec has the second-largest agricultural sector in Canada, accounting for roughly 21 per cent of the country's domestic agricultural workforce. The professionals charged with advising that industry have been working under rules written before the internet, before GPS-guided tractors, and before climate change became a daily reality for farmers.

"It is time to provide Quebec with a modern, coherent, and structured professional framework equal to the agricultural, environmental, and climate challenges of today and tomorrow, in the interest of the public, producers, and the agri-food sector as a whole," said Montpetit.



Quebec's environment ministry has expanded the special regulatory exception zone on the lower Gatineau River, closing a gap that previously left a stretch near Île Marguerite under different fishing rules, with the change taking effect when the sport fishing season opens on April 1, 2026. (TF)

PHOTO: COURTESY OF THE MELCCFP - HUNTING AND FISHING FACEBOOK PAGE

In practical terms, a longer and now uninterrupted stretch of the lower Gatineau River falls under the same special rules, rather than being divided between two different regulatory frameworks. The specific rules that apply within the exception zone are available through the MELCCFP's interactive fishing map and the printable Zone 10 regulations document on its website. Full details on all Zone 10 changes taking effect this spring are available on the MELCCFP sport fishing website: <https://peche.faune.gouv.qc.ca/regpec/carteinteractive/en>

Anyone who witnesses illegal fishing or any other activity that harms wildlife or natural habitat is encouraged to report it confidentially through the SOS Braconnage tipline, reachable at no charge by phone at 1-800-463-2191 or online through the MELCCFP website.

Courthouse security upgrades complete with metal detectors in Gatineau



Tashi Farmilo

Walk-through metal detectors began operating March 25 at the Gatineau courthouse, the Quebec government announced, completing a province-wide security enhancement program first pledged in 2024.

The new equipment, installed at the main entrance of the courthouse at 170 rue de l'Hôtel-de-ville, means the public can no longer enter through doors on rue Laurier. Visitors are being advised to allow extra time before hearings, as wait times at the screening stations are expected. Failing to pass through security does not exempt anyone from their legal obligation to appear in court on time.

The Gatineau installation marks the final phase of a \$31-million investment the province announced in June 2024 to modernize security across Quebec's busiest courthouses. Of that sum, \$7.6 million was earmarked for new and upgraded equipment across the court network, while \$23.4 million was directed toward training and hiring additional special constables.

Justice Minister Simon Jolin-Barrette said the



Quebec has completed a province-wide courthouse security upgrade program with the installation of walk-through metal detectors at the Gatineau courthouse, says Mathieu Lévesque, MNA for Châteauguay and deputy government house leader. This photo was published in the *Aylmer Bulletin* along with an article about road investment. (TF)

PHOTO: TASHI FARMILO, AYLMEYER BULLETIN ARCHIVES

completion of the program delivers on a commitment made nearly two years ago. "In June 2024, we made a commitment to make our courthouses safer and more modern by enhancing security measures in high-traffic facilities," he said. "With today's announcement, we are demonstrating that we have acted to foster a greater sense of security in our courthouses, for the benefit of the public."

Public Security Minister Ian Lafrenière acknowledged that serious incidents in Quebec courthouses remain rare but said the investment reflects a preventive approach. "We continue to equip them with tools to prevent these incidents in order to ensure the safety of everyone," he said. "I want to commend the work of the special constables who are present at the detection stations: their vigilance and expertise are essential for these new pieces of equipment to have the intended effect on security levels in our courthouses."

Mathieu Lévesque, MNA for Châteauguay and deputy government house leader, said the upgrades serve a broader purpose for the public's relationship with the justice system. "A courthouse must be a place that inspires confidence and in which one feels safe," he said. "I welcome the implementation of these additional security measures, which will help make the justice

system experience more reassuring for the citizens of Châteauguay, Gatineau and the Outaouais."

Private woodlot owners in the Pontiac locked out of key provincial programs



Tashi Farmilo

Private woodlot owners in the Pontiac are facing structural challenges that limit their ability to compete in Quebec's forestry market, and the province's 2026-2027 budget does little to address them, according to Cash Allard, Director General of the Office des producteurs de bois du Pontiac (OPBP).

The numbers illustrate the imbalance. According to Quebec government statistics, 92 per cent of the province's forests are publicly owned. Yet private forests account for 17 per cent of Quebec's productive forest area, according to a 2025 survey by the Fédération des producteurs forestiers du Québec. In 2023, public forests supplied 68 per cent of the roundwood that fed Quebec's forestry industry, compared to 21 per cent from private forests, according to the FPFQ's June 2025 congress report.

The core problem, Allard says, is market access. When local industry demand falls short, a government-subsidized program allows timber to be shipped outside the region to find buyers. But the program primarily channels wood from public lands, locking private woodlot owners out. In an interview with the Pontiac Journal about the budget, Liberal MNA André Fortin raised the same concern. "There are private woodlot owners that would benefit greatly from being able to access this program and right now they can't," he said. Fortin argued the budget should have required industries to source a guaranteed portion of wood from private lots.

The funding gap compounds the problem. According to Allard, nearly 90 per cent of transport assistance funding in Quebec goes to public forests, leaving private producers in the Pontiac, the Laurentides, and the Outaouais to share the remaining 10 per cent of an envelope that is already shrinking.

At the heart of the issue is a legal principle known as

residuality. Under Quebec's Sustainable Forest Development Act, wood from public forests is supposed to complement private forest supply, not compete with it. Allard says the opposite is happening, and private woodlot owners in the Pontiac are losing market share as a result. In February, the FPFQ condemned amendments to Bill 11, provincial forestry legislation, arguing proposed changes to the auction system and royalty structure would further erode that principle. The federation, which represents more than 162,000 private woodlot owners province-wide, called the 2026-2027 budget a further disappointment, saying the government had missed its last concrete opportunity before the election to recognize private forest producers.

The budget does contain forestry measures, including the elimination of the annual levy on wood supply licences and changes to the royalty structure, both aimed at reducing costs for companies harvesting from public land. Fortin told the Pontiac Journal those steps were positive, but not enough. "They are positive, but they are still very slow measures compared to the needs of the industry," he said, pointing to American tariffs on Canadian softwood lumber now exceeding 45 per cent and declining demand.

Allard says what is needed is an increase in transport assistance directed at private forests, rigorous enforcement of the residuality principle, stronger forest management support, and industrial investments that create real market access for privately sourced wood. He noted that a government investment in the Thurso mill did not help private producers because that facility does not purchase roundwood directly from them.

"When the markets are not there, it is the producers, their families, local communities, and the entire sector that bear the consequences," Allard said. "In the Pontiac, these issues are not theoretical. They translate directly into lost opportunities and wood that too often remains standing or on the ground for lack of buyers."

Gatineau police arrest two men for attempted murder committed last October



Sophie Demers
LJI Reporter

Early last October, Gatineau police responded to a call related to gun violence in the city's Lac-Beauchamp area near de Vimy and Notre-Dame Streets. On the scene, authorities found a 34-year-old man with injuries consistent with gun violence. The victim was transported to the hospital for treatment, and an investigation was launched.

Five months later, police arrested two Ottawa men in relation to the incident. At approximately 10:30 am on March 11, Ottawa Police Tactical Unit arrested 35-year-old Timothy Michael Langlois and 34-year-old Mohamed Said Mohamed. The individuals were brought to the police station for questioning and are now facing charges of attempted murder, use of a firearm, and multiple firearm charges. Gatineau police conducted two searches in Ottawa after the suspects were arrested. No further information on the searches was provided by authorities.

Gatineau police state that information about the event was gathered thanks to witnesses and investigators. Police encourage individuals who may have information related to the incident to contact them on their info line, 819 243-4636, option 5.

Important investissement pour les fonds d'accès à la santé buccodentaire



Méliッサ Gélinas

Le gouvernement du Canada a annoncé un financement de 3,8 M\$ pour le projet du Fonds d'accès à la santé buccodentaire (FASB) à l'Université Laval. Cette aide financière contribuera au soutien et à l'amélioration de la formation des étudiants de la faculté de médecine dentaire

tout en permettant l'élargissement de l'accès aux soins dentaires à la population. Pour ce faire, le financement sera distribué pour la réalisation de trois projets.

1^{er} PROJET

Un montant de plus de 2,3 M\$ a été accordé afin de créer des stages en dentisterie sociale (une approche de santé publique visant à rendre les soins buccodentaires accessibles aux personnes vulnérables à moindre coût). Ces formations seront offertes dans une clinique communautaire située au centre-ville de Québec et dans une nouvelle clinique située dans la région de la Rive-Sud, en Beauce.

2^e PROJET

Grâce à un financement de plus de 1 M\$, les étudiants en soins buccodentaires pourront désormais effectuer une partie de leur formation dans des cabinets privés situés dans des régions mal desservies du Québec.

3^e PROJET

Un montant de plus de 450 000 \$ sera attribué à la formation des étudiants en soins buccodentaires, tout en maintenant et en soutenant l'adhésion au Régime canadien de soins dentaires (RCSD) chez les résidents admissibles des régions de Québec et de Lévis.

Suite à la page 9

Cimetières - Maison Funéraire



Un lieu d'exception en Outaouais !
100% vert, durable et écologique !

Arrangements préalables
Financement sans intérêt jusqu'à 60 mois

5 emplacements pour vous servir - lesjardinsdusouvenir.com - 819 778-1515

Quebec's latest budget leaves Outaouais health care gap unaddressed



Tashi Farmilo
Local Journalism Initiative

For decades, residents of the Outaouais have crossed the Ottawa River to receive medical care that should have been available on the Quebec side. The region's hospitals are underfunded; its clinics are understaffed; and its wait times are among the longest in the province. The Quebec government has acknowledged the problem in writing, and in 2019, the National

Assembly adopted a motion formally recognizing a significant lag in public health funding in the region. Seven years later, the problem has not been fixed, and last week's provincial budget did not fix it either.

Action Santé Outaouais (ASO), a health care rights organization based in Gatineau, released figures on March 19 that illustrate the scale of the gap. Drawing on data from the Observatoire du développement de l'Outaouais, the organization calculates that the funding shortfall between what the Outaouais received and the Quebec-wide average reached \$348 million in 2023, nearly double what it was just a year earlier. For a region of roughly 400,000 people, that gap translates directly into fewer nurses, fewer specialists, longer waits, and a health-care network that consistently operates beyond its means.

Continued on page 9

CETTE ANNÉE,
Je marche pour
ne laisser
personne derrière.



GESTION DE PATRIMOINE

LA MARCHÉ POUR L'ALZHEIMER

Société Alzheimer OUTAOUAIS

DIMANCHE

31 MAI 2026

DÈS 9 H 30 | PLAGE LAC LEAMY



INSCRIVEZ-VOUS
DÈS AUJOURD'HUI !



Clinique Mémoire
Memory Clinic
OTTAWA | MONTRÉAL



CHARTwell

résidences pour retraités



ARTS VISUELS DE GATINEAU

EXPO-VENTE
PRINTANIÈRE

24 au 26 avril 2026

Vendredi: 19 h à 21 h
Samedi: 10 h à 17 h
Dimanche: 10 h à 17 h

Centre communautaire Tétréau
361, boulevard de Lucerne, Gatineau, QC

artsvisuelsgatineau.com

f @




Important investissement pour les fonds d'accès à la santé buccodentaire

Suite de la page 8

UN INVESTISSEMENT BEAUCOUP PLUS ÉTENDU

Ces projets s'inscrivent dans l'investissement global de plus de 35 M\$ sur trois ans visant à soutenir 30 projets du FASB répartis dans plusieurs provinces

canadiennes, dont le Québec, l'Alberta, la Colombie-Britannique, le Manitoba, le Nouveau-Brunswick, l'Ontario, l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard et la Saskatchewan.

À PROPOS DU FASB

Le FASB est un programme de subventions

et de contributions mis sur pied par Santé Canada. Depuis avril 2025, le gouvernement s'est engagé à distribuer 250 M\$ sur une période de trois ans.

Son objectif est d'améliorer la formation en soins buccodentaires chez les étudiants et d'étendre l'accessibilité à ces soins pour les populations vulnérables ou vivant en région

éloignée, grâce au soutien de différents projets.

Le programme vient également compléter le Régime canadien de soins dentaires (RCSD) qui bénéficie actuellement à plus de 6 M de Canadiens, dont 1,7 M de Québécois n'ayant pas accès à une assurance privée et dont le revenu familial net est inférieur à 90 000 \$.

Quebec's latest budget leaves Outaouais health care gap unaddressed

Continued from page 8

The cost of that shortfall is visible in Quebec's own accounts. ASO reports that Quebec's public health insurer, the RAMQ, spent \$117.9 million in 2024 reimbursing care that Outaouais residents received at Ontario hospitals because adequate services were not available locally, a figure that has climbed 25 per cent since 2020. Every dollar spent at an Ontario hospital is a dollar that does not go toward building capacity on the Quebec side of the river. In 2025, when Santé Québec announced \$90 million in cuts to the regional network, local organizations pushed back and the cuts were reduced to \$45 million.

Against that backdrop, the 2026-2027 budget increases Quebec's overall health and social services spending by 4.1 per cent. ASO, citing research from the Institut de recherche et d'informations socioéconomiques, argues that this increase roughly matches

the estimated four per cent annual rise in what it costs to simply maintain the existing system. There is no new money for the kind of structural reinvestment the Outaouais needs. The organization called the budget the eighth in eight years from the current government to pass without a concrete commitment to closing the gap the legislature recognized in 2019.

A further concern raised by ASO is a performance-based funding model being rolled out by Santé Québec across the provincial health network. The model ties a portion of funding to measurable efficiency targets, comparing results across regions. ASO argues the Outaouais cannot be compared fairly to other regions. No other part of Quebec is simultaneously managing decades of accumulated underfunding, a severe shortage of health-care workers, and the competitive pull of Ontario, where salaries and working conditions draw

medical staff across the border.

On infrastructure, ASO notes that the Quebec Infrastructure Plan 2026-2036 allocates \$1.6 billion to health facilities in the Outaouais over the decade, comprising \$330 million for maintenance of existing buildings and \$1.2 billion for new construction and expansion. That envelope covers work at the CHSLD des Collines and the Centre d'hébergement de la Vallée-de-la-Lièvre, as well as the long-awaited Centre hospitalier affilié universitaire de l'Outaouais. ASO questions whether \$1.6 billion is enough to deliver all of that within the decade. The hospital project alone was estimated at \$1.4 billion five years ago, before construction costs rose sharply

across the province. The organization also reports that the Outaouais currently lacks roughly 400 long-term care beds, a number it projects will grow to 1,500 by 2040 even after the new Maisons des aînés already in the pipeline are completed.

With a provincial election set for October 5, 2026, ASO and a coalition that includes the Conférence des préfets de l'Outaouais and more than 20 regional organizations are pressing all parties for a three-year reinvestment commitment: \$150 million in the first year, \$305 million in the second, and \$462 million in the third. Those figures represent between 0.2 and 0.7 per cent of Quebec's total health spending for 2026-2027.

WESTQUEBECPOST.COM



DITES-VOUS SOUVENT QUOI? COMMENT?
DO YOU OFTEN ASK WHAT? PARDON?

DÉPISTAGE DE LA PERTE D'AUDITION SANS FRAIS*

* Valide jusqu'au 30 juin 2026

SCREENING HEARING TEST AT NO CHARGE*

* Valid until June 30th, 2026



Le Réseau Vos Oreilles
AUDIOPROTHÉSISTES
SASSEVILLE - BOLDOC - LÉGARE

<p>Pascale Bolduc Audioprothésiste Gatineau 520, Boul. de l'Hôpital, 2C 819 243-7773 1 800 732-5370</p>	<p>Mélanie Légaré Audioprothésiste Aylmer 181, rue Principale 819 557-1222 1 800 567-1580</p>	<p>Wakefield Clinique Médicale des Collines La Pêche 895, chemin Riverside, bureau 200 819 557-1222</p>
---	---	---

VosOreilles.com



Vous êtes PASSIONNÉS de science?

Vivez l'expérience à la maison!

LES DÉBROUILLARDS

EN FÊTE

Célébre ton anniversaire de manière mémorable!

Animations scientifiques qui proposent aux jeunes de 5 - 12 ans de partir à la découverte de l'univers scientifique!

Contactez-nous!

(819) 770-5252

debrouillards@technoscienceoutaouais.ca



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

CHURCH

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.

FOR RENT

FURNISHED BASEMENT APARTMENT AVAILABLE in the Aylmer sector of Gatineau for employed male. References, etc., required. \$860/month. Contact: 613-805-1303.

FOR SALE

HUGE VINTAGE TOY COLLECTION + ANTIQUES for sale. By appointment only. Call 819-500-0886.

HALL RENTAL

CHEZ PUTTERS OFFERS 2 VIP ROOMS FREE OF CHARGE: One can accommodate up to 50 people, and the other, up to 25. Drinks must be ordered on site. There is also a restaurant on site to serve you. Reserve now at info@chezputters.ca or call 819-557-1188. Galerie Aylmer, North Entrance, 181 Principale Street, Gatineau, QC J9H 6A6. Visit and like our Facebook page.

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

SHARON LAPLANTE INFIRMIÈRE CLINICIENNE (bébés et familles). Visites à domicile et en ligne. Bilingual services. caring@sharonlaplante.com

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 being so generous!

JOB OFFERS

CORRECTEUR / CORRECTRICE DE FRANÇAIS À TEMPS PARTIEL. Nous recherchons un correcteur ou une correctrice pour les articles du journal local. Contact: info@bulletinaylmer.com.

JOB OFFERS

PART-TIME FRENCH PROOFREADER. Proofreading of community newspaper articles needed. Contact: info@bulletinaylmer.com.

MASSAGE

O! SO NATURAL 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

BOISERIE DD Pour tous types de projets et petites rénovations. For all types of projects and small renovations. Dan Dompierre: 819-213-1817, ddompierre65@gmail.com.

FEMME DE MÉNAGE 28 ANS D'EXPÉRIENCE Très fiable. Place disponible à combler. Pour plus d'informations, contactez Julie au 819-592-7006.

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

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

TAXES

VOUS AVEZ BESOIN D'AIDE POUR VOS IMPÔTS? Plus de 25 ans d'expérience. Professionnel, rapide et efficace. Service à distance disponible. Contactez-moi au 819-230-4324 ou à abcimpots@gmail.com.

À LA RECHERCHE / WANTED Argent comptant pour les terrains bûchés / Cash for logged land. Prix équitable / Fair price. 819-760-0340.

westquebecpost.com



BECAUSE WE HAVE YOUR ACTIVITIES AT HEART COMMUNITY EVENTS

ALCOOLIQUES ANONYMES PEUT VOUS AIDER. Les Alcooliqes anonymes sont une association de personnes qui viennent en aide aux personnes souffrant d'alcoolisme. Nous nous aidons les uns les autres à demeurer abstinents en partageant nos expériences de rétablissement avec d'autres personnes désireuses de mettre fin à leur dépendance à l'alcool. Si tu veux arrêter de boire, nous pouvons t'aider. Tél. : 819-561-2002, AA90.org.

AYLMER LEGION BRANCH 033 - Buddy Check Veterans Get Together every second Tuesday evening at 7 pm, for info contact Bruce at (613) 240-6915. -Tuesday 14 April from 10 am to noon on the 1st floor: Coffee Morning "Breaking Social Isolation", complimentary coffee, tea, and light snack. -Tuesday 14 April from 10 am to 11:30 am on the 2nd floor: Grief Support Group. -Wednesday 15 April at 6:30 pm: Trivia Night! Info & Inscriptions 613-240-0559. -Saturday 18 April at 8 pm: Dance Night with live music by the Gib Rozon Band. -Sunday, 19 April at 1 pm: Euchre Tournament. -Wednesday 22 April at 6:30 pm: General Meeting for members. -Saturday 25 April at 8 pm: Karaoke Party, come sing, dance, and have fun with us. -Sunday 26 April from 10 am to noon: It's the Big Spring Cleanup, and we are looking for volunteers to help us with the spring cleaning. Volunteers are welcome to join us at the Legion starting at 9:30 am with their work gloves, outdoor brooms, and rakes. -Sunday 26 April at 1 pm: Cribbage Tournament. -Thursday 30 April at 8 pm: Open-Mic the Jesse

James Live Experience. -Saturday 2 May at 8 pm: 80s/90s Dance Party Live Music by the Allez Cats. -The Aylmer Legion is located at 59 Bancroft. All are welcome. For more information about Hall rentals, contact us by email: Aylmerlegion33@gmail.com

CN CYCLE FOR CHEO Raising funds to help kids with cancer. Cycle or walk and help support CHEO's largest fundraiser for pediatric oncology care and research. Every dollar raised transforms the lives of children and teens facing a cancer diagnosis at CHEO. Join us on Sunday, May 3, 2026, at the Canadian War Museum. Get active! Win prizes! Register now! CNCYCLE.CA/FR

DESCHÊNES PARK ALLIANCE 2026 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM). Park Deschênes Alliance invites everyone to its Annual General Meeting on Thursday, April 16, which will take place at the Belmont Community Centre, 26 Belmont street, Aylmer sector. The meeting will start at 7 pm. Light refreshments will be served after the meeting to continue exchanges and to visit the Alliance kiosk on site. For more information, go to www.parcdeschenes.ca or contact us at parcdeschenespark@gmail.com.

ENGLISH AYLMEYER SCRABBLE CLUB Love words and want to meet some great people? Come join the English Aylmer Scrabble Club! Whether you're a "Triple Word Score" pro or just looking for a fun way to spend your Monday night, we'd love to have you. Every Monday at 7 pm at the Centre Communautaire Entre-Nous, 26 rue Belmont, Gatineau (Aylmer).

Completely FREE! No commitment, just drop in whenever you can! For more information, reach out to Greg: caagmg@gmail.com or 819-682-1283. See you at the board!

INVITATION: HERITAGE SUNDAYS AT THE OLD HULL TOWNSHIP METHODIST CHAPEL (1827) AT 495 CHEMIN D'AYLMER. Join the Aylmer Heritage Association this spring for a series of animated talks on the theme Aylmer in the 20th Century - microcosm of a country. Sunday, April 12, 1:30 pm (in English) and Sunday, April 19, 1:30 pm (in French): The 1900s - a century of unsurpassed historic societal change - as witnessed in the life and decline of the gentlemen's private club: Ottawa's prestigious Country Club (1908-1999) on Aylmer Road in West Quebec. Enid Page, Gabriela Sanchez. Sunday, May 3, 1:30 pm (Bilingual): Prominence and Privilege: The Graham Family. Gabriela Sanchez, Enid Page. The talks are free of charge; please register by phone or email: 819-684-6809, associationpatrimoineaylmer@gmail.com. These presentations are supported by a QAHN-SHARE grant from the Government of Canada.

LE GRAND ORCHESTRE GRANDE RIVIÈRE PRÉSENTE LA SYMPHONIE GASTRONOMIQUE AMBIANCE RÉTRO MUSIQUE DES ANNÉES 50, 60, 70 ET 80. Grand dîner cinq services servi par Le St-Estèphe Fin Traiteur et prestation musicale, suivi d'une soirée dansante, musique du Big Band du GOG. Encaissement silencieux, prix de présence et tirages. Samedi 25 avril de 18 h 30 à 22 h à l'école secondaire Grande-Rivière, 100, rue Broad, Gatineau (Aylmer). 120 \$/personne (pourboire et taxes incluses). <https://www.grandorchestregrandriviere.com/symphonie-gastronomique-2026>

LUSKVILLE FARM HOP May 2 & 3, 2026, from 10 am to 3 pm. Four farms will be participating. Head to our website to find out more! www.luskvillefarm-hop.com

OPENING OF THE LUCY-FARIS LIBRARY OPEN HOUSE. The Lucy-Faris Library is opening its doors to the brand-new Constance-Provost building in the Aylmer area! Explore the library's modern, bright, and tech-savvy spaces through free activities all weekend long. Guided tours to explore the new facilities and services offered. Giant games and activities for children, and story time. Explore the Creative Space and see demonstrations of digital equipment (3D printing, heat presses, laser cutting, etc.). Lecture by Lynne Rodier: Celebrating Old Aylmer: A Historic Site at the Heart of Cultural Life and More! Free! Saturday, April 25, and Sunday, April 26, 2026, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Lucy-Faris Library, 115 Principale Street, Gatineau. No registration required. Activity for everyone. **TEEN NIGHT!** Plus, teens aged 12 to 17 are invited to a special night just for them! Virtual reality, slam poetry with D-Track, snacks... When? Saturday, April 25, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

SUGAR SHACK IN OLD AYLMEYER! Fun activities for the whole family await you at this festive event on April 11 and 12, from 10 am to 4 pm. On the program: Maple taffy, maple products, maple liquor, maple soap, maple pastries, maple wood gifts, and a variety of other products, each more amazing than the last. Jugglers, a petting zoo, inflatable structures, L'As des Jeux, face painting and tattoos for kids, and nearly 50 exhibitors. Along Principale Street, between Le Monastère (161 Principale Street) and the Auberge Symmes Museum (1 Principale Street). Come enjoy delicious treats and fun family activities.

EXCESSIVE CHARGES IMPOSED ON NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES BY THE QUEBEC GOVERNMENT

Good intentions.

Serious

side

effects.

Publishers support sustainability. But dramatic and unsustainable increases in recycling costs for newspapers and magazines risk weakening the local newsrooms Quebec communities rely on every day. The consequences for local media warrant a second look.



POUR KATRINE

**EXCESSIVE CHARGES IMPOSED ON NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES
BY THE GOVERNMENT**

Progress

shouldn't
come at the
expense of

journalism.

Publishers are committed to recycling. But the dramatic and unsustainable scale of proposed new fees on newspapers and magazines raises concerns about the future viability of Quebec's news ecosystem and the communities that depend on it.

