

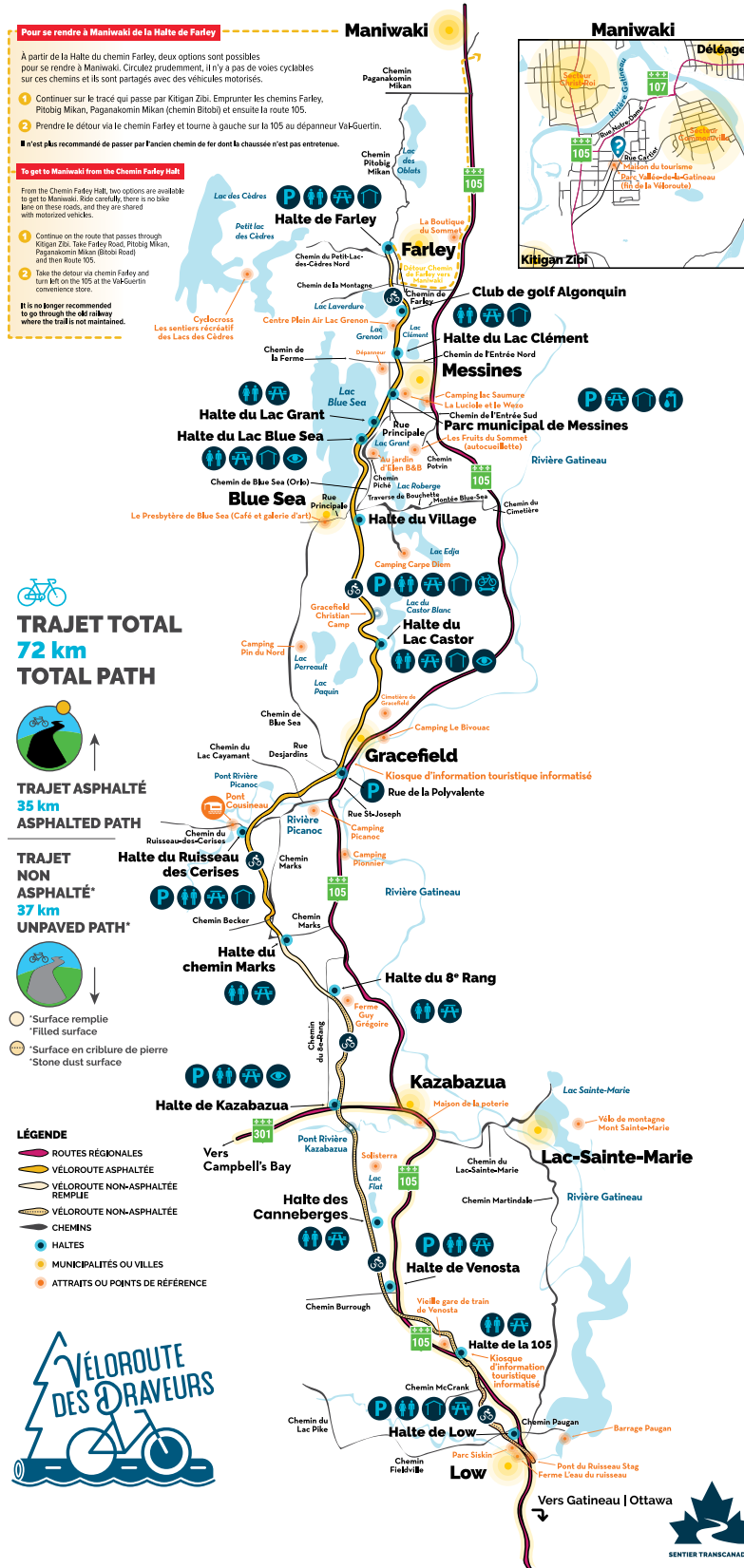
From: Six Generations
of Irish in Mayo, by Patrick Ryan (1979)

Ukraine -- Democracy
and Corruption

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Authors line the Véloroute des Draveurs for a free lakeside literary ride



The Salon du livre de l'Outaouais and Réseau BIBLIO de l'Outaouais present the free Authors' Cycle Route on September 19 along the Véloroute des Draveurs between Blue Sea and Messines, where riders can stop at four lakeside literary halts to hear regional writers Julie-Anne Codaire, Jean-Luc Lacroix, Myriam Legault-Beauregard and Kathia Trotter read work drawn from nature. (TF)

PHOTO: COURTESY



The Authors' Cycle Route, a free outdoor event that turns a ride along Blue Sea Lake into a moving literary reading, will unfold September 19 from 1 to 4 pm on the Véloroute des Draveurs between Blue Sea and Messines, as

the Salon du livre de l'Outaouais and the Réseau BIBLIO de l'Outaouais invite Vallée-de-la-Gatineau cyclists to pedal the trail and pause at rest areas where four regional authors read work drawn from nature. If heavy rain sets in, the event moves to the following day.

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Gatineau forum to examine the Chalk River radioactive waste plan



Tashi Farmilo
LJ Reporter

A public forum gathering Algonquin leaders, a scientist and Outaouais residents to examine plans for a radioactive waste site upstream at Chalk River will be held in Gatineau on September 26. Free and bilingual, the gathering at the Centre communautaire Tétreau, in Parc Moussette, is organized by the École d'été citoyenne at the Université du Québec en Outaouais and the community initiative LabPop, which settled on nuclear power this year as the regional question residents most wanted to understand.

The day opens at 11 am with an Indigenous water ceremony led by researcher and community organizer Dara Wawatie-Chabot, held by the river, alongside an art exhibit created with the Kitigan Zibi and Kebaowek First Nations. A free lunch follows at noon. From 1 to 3 pm, a panel turns to the substance: the history of the Chalk River laboratories, the proposal to bury radioactive waste beside the river, the court challenges it has met, and the standing of First Nations as stewards of the land, along with their right to free, prior and informed consent.

Speaking are Justin Roy, a Kebaowek



A public forum in Gatineau on September 26 will bring Algonquin leaders, a scientist and local residents together to examine the contested plan to bury radioactive waste at Chalk River, upstream on the Ottawa River, a project the courts have already sent back to the federal government twice. (TF)

PHOTO: COURTESY OF ÉCOLE D'ÉTÉ CITOYENNE

First Nation councillor and its director of community development, who has led the community's response to the project; scientist Ole Hendrickson; and Chantal Pelletier, an activist with Mères au front (Région de l'Outaouais) and Decolonial Solidarity Ottawa-Gatineau.

The questions the forum takes up are not small ones. Chalk River Laboratories, established in 1944 was the cradle of Canada's atomic program, helping produce the CANDU reactor and much of the world's supply of medical isotopes. In January 2024,

the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission approved a plan by Canadian Nuclear Laboratories to build a disposal facility at the site, an engineered mound to hold up to one million cubic metres of low-level radioactive waste, from contaminated soil to discarded protective clothing, roughly a kilometre from the river. The commission judged the project unlikely to cause significant adverse environmental effects.

That verdict has not gone unchallenged. The Kebaowek First Nation, an Algonquin community about 300 kilometres

northwest of Aylmer, on territory it holds to be unceded, took the approval to Federal Court and, in February 2025, won a ruling that regulators had failed to weigh the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in consulting the community. The court ordered fresh consultation, to be completed by the end of this September. A separate ruling returned the project's species-at-risk permit for reconsideration; in May 2026, the Federal Court of Appeal upheld that finding and directed Environment and Climate Change Canada to look again.

Roy has argued the case is about how governments honour Indigenous rights, and that consent is "not a veto." Canadian Nuclear Laboratories, which manages the site under contract to Atomic Energy of Canada Limited, says the facility is both sound and needed: it is meant to consolidate radioactive waste that has built up at Chalk River since the 1940s, much of it now sitting in aging trenches in ways that no longer meet modern standards, along with waste from the site's ongoing cleanup.

Registration is free through the event's Facebook page, at facebook.com/share/191c8rttqp. Organizers plan a second session in November that will widen the discussion to what a just energy transition would ask of the region.



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Authors line the Véloroute des Draveurs for a free lakeside literary ride

Continued from page 1

The four writers reading that afternoon are all rooted in the region and its publishing scene. Julie-Anne Codaire, of Cantley, is an author and communications consultant who published a 2022 collection of testimonials from parents raising children who are different, then a 2023 children's book about her autistic son. Jean-Luc Lacroix, a Grand-Remous native who calls himself a "shipwrecked poet," released the collection *L'envolagilité* with Maniwaki's La Note Verte publishing house in 2020 and appears in a collective poetry volume due this fall. Myriam Legault-Beauregard, a translator, student and slam poet, saw her first collection, *Comme un myosotis*, published by La Note Verte in 2023. Kathia Trottier writes children's literature, including the *Spikou and Princess Magalie* series and the eco-educational title *The Allies of the Earth*, and works as a library technician and coordinator of the JR L'Heureux library in Maniwaki. Their books can be borrowed and bought through the network's participating libraries, which reach across the valley in Aumond, Blue Sea, Bois-Franc, Bouchette, Gracefield, Grand-Remous,

Kazabazua, Lac-Sainte-Marie, Low, Maniwaki with Déléage and Egan-Sud, Messines, Montcerf-Lytton and Sainte-Thérèse-de-la-Gatineau.

There is no set course to follow. The readings run continuously at four literary stops, so riders choose where to begin, how fast to go and which halt to linger at, all of them clustered along the trail's northern stretch near the lake: the Village halt, the Grant Lake halt, the Blue Sea Lake halt and the Messines municipal park. From there the route opens onto a trail that winds through marshes, lakes, rivers and forests over 72 kilometres and forms one of Quebec's early sections of the Trans Canada Trail. It is laid over an old railway bed that helped open the Gatineau Valley to settlement, the same corridor that once carried timber and newcomers now carrying cyclists and verse, the log drivers who lent the route its name traded for authors reading at the water's edge.

The Salon du livre de l'Outaouais, founded in 1979 and drawing roughly 40,000 visitors a year to Gatineau, is the partner driving the day. This ride is the summer, open-air counterpart to that fair, funded by the Quebec government and the MRC de La Vallée-de-la-Gatineau under the region's Cultural Development Agreement.

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Quebec's budget adds up, the auditor general says, if the province is ready to cut billions



Tashi Farmilo
LJI Reporter

Quebec's plan to balance its budget is believable, Auditor General Christine Roy reported on August 17, but only if the government is prepared to strip billions of dollars from public spending within a few years. Her verdict comes with a caution: the further out you look, the shakier the plan gets.

Every four years, just before Quebecers vote, the finance minister has to publish an honest accounting of the province's finances, and the auditor general has to grade it. The point is that voters should head to the polls knowing the real state of the treasury, not a campaign-friendly version of it. This year's accounting was written by Finance Minister Eric Girard, in a CAQ government now led by Premier Christine Fréchette.

Roy's team examined the government's projections through the 2028-2029 fiscal year and judged them credible, at least as things stood on July 10. Credible, but not comfortable. The plan rests on solid enough ground this year, but the effort it demands tightens next year, in 2027-2028, and tightens harder the year after.



Auditor General Christine Roy has judged Quebec's plan to balance its budget by 2029-2030 credible but precarious, warning it depends on the government finding billions in spending cuts, close to \$5 billion in a single year, without saying which programs would be sacrificed to get there. (TF)

PHOTO: COURTESY OF THE
AUDITOR GENERAL OF QUEBEC

The pressure comes from a promise written into law: the budget must be

balanced by 2029-2030. To keep it, the government is banking on spending that grows far more slowly than it has been. Roy put a price on that restraint. The province would need to find at least \$2 billion in savings in 2027-2028, then at least \$3 billion the following year. And that second year could get worse, with a further \$1.85 billion potentially piled on top, pushing the single-year total to nearly \$5 billion. Reaching those figures, Roy says, would mean trimming or cancelling funding for some government programs. Which ones? The report doesn't say.

On the money coming in, Roy is satisfied. The government expects tax revenue to grow more slowly, and with a cooling economy and easing inflation, that is a reasonable bet. The strain is all on the money going out.

Why is the economy cooling? Roy points to two forces. Quebec's population has essentially stopped growing, which quietly drains demand across the province, and global trade has turned unpredictable, rattled in part by American tariffs and conflicts abroad. Slower growth means a thinner stream of tax dollars.

And the hard part does not end once the budget is balanced. The plan calls for yet another round of cuts in 2029-2030, savings

that would then have to be held in place year after year, growing harder to sustain as they stack up. Paying down Quebec's debt rests on the same balancing act, a budget kept in balance every year straight through to 2037-2038. The plan also assumes the government will spend far less on building and repairs, even as the province's roads, hospitals and other infrastructure are already showing their age and new projects wait in line.

Roy also graded the report as a document, and mostly liked what she saw was: a clear, relevant, and fair reflection of where Quebec's finances stand. Her one substantive complaint is technical but not trivial. When the budget states its bottom line, whether the province finishes the year in the black or the red, that figure should be worked out the same way it appears in the government's official books, so the two tell the same story.

For all the warnings, Roy's bottom line is that the plan can work. The reason is straightforward: the government holds the levers on enough of its own spending to make these cuts if it chooses to. The targets are within reach. Whether they are reached, and at whose expense, is the question the report hands to the campaign. Quebecers head to the poles on October 5.

Aquatic organism Spiny Water Fleas Gaining Ground in the Gatineau River



Drazen Seslija

The spiny water flea continues its spread in the Outaouais region. After being detected in the Baskatong Reservoir in 2024, this invasive exotic species was recently observed in the Gatineau River as far downstream as the Chelsea Dam, approximately 170 kilometers from the reservoir.

The discovery was made during monitoring work carried out by teams from the Ministry of the Environment, the Fight Against Climate Change, Wildlife and Parks. It has been confirmed that the spiny water fleas are present throughout the Gatineau River.

WHAT IS THE SPINY WATER FLEA?

Native to parts of Europe and Asia, the spiny water flea is a small aquatic organism that can easily spread from one body of water to another, particularly by attaching itself to boats and fishing or recreational equipment. Once established in an aquatic environment, it is particularly difficult to eradicate.

Authorities are therefore focusing on prevention to limit its spread to other bodies of water in the region. Boaters and anglers are encouraged to take three simple steps before moving their boats or equipment: clean the equipment, drain all residual



water, and allow it to dry completely. These
A cluster of spiny water fleas found on a fishing line (DS)

PHOTO: CAROLANE RIOPEL-LEDU

precautions are especially important when travelling between different lakes and waterways in the Outaouais region.

Residents who wish to find a cleaning station can consult the map provided by the Government of Quebec.

Finally, anyone who believes they have seen a spiny water flea is encouraged to report it to authorities. Observations can be reported by email to faune@environnement.gouv.qc.ca or by phone at 1-877-346-6763.

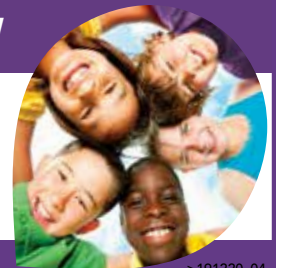
Given that the species is now present throughout the Gatineau River, vigilance from waterway users remains essential to prevent it from expanding into new territories.

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Guest editorial

Quebec includes English-speakers: election campaigns should too

Issues related to language, secularism and sovereignty are likely to play a central role in the coming Quebec election campaign. But for many seniors, including English-speaking seniors, a competing ballot issue is taking shape: demography.

For several decades, we've been hearing about an approaching "crise démographique" in Quebec. About how, with an aging society and declining birthrates, Quebec is heading toward strained public budgets, severe labour shortages and health-care overload. And about how hard it's going to be to provide good assisted-living services to a growing population of retirees.

That crisis isn't just approaching anymore. It has arrived, just in time for the election campaign.

The entire baby boom generation, born between 1946 and 1965, will be seniors by the end of the next government's four-year mandate. And in 2031, according to projections, fully one in four Quebecers, or 25 per cent, will be seniors - compared with just seven per cent when the first boomer was born in 1946.

In many regions outside of large urban centres like Montreal and Quebec City, such as the Eastern Townships, the seniors population has already hit the 25-per-cent mark. The proportion is even higher in some other regions. In Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine, it's already 32 per cent.

What's more, front-end boomers are moving this year into their 80s, a decade when Statistics Canada says seniors use health and community supports at twice the

rate of younger seniors aged 65 to 79. Meanwhile, birth rates have fallen to a near-historic low of 1.36 births per woman in Quebec and the government is cutting back on immigration.

Quebec is already struggling to cope with it all. More than 11,500 seniors on a wait list for CLSC homecare services are still waiting for their first visit. And more than 3,000 are waiting for placement in a publicly financed CHSLD long-term care facility. Wait times for CHSLD placement are up to 18 months long. Waits are potentially longer for seniors — including many English-speaking seniors — who hold out for placement in a designated-bilingual or culturally specific facility.

Things are even worse in the private network of seniors' homes. Since 2018, 740 of 2,090 private residences have closed their doors. Owners are having trouble coping with rising operating costs, new regulatory requirements and severe staff shortages. Staffers they do find tend to jump inevitably to the higher-paying CHSLD network.

English-speaking seniors are especially vulnerable. Many of their children have left Quebec and they don't have family living close enough to assist with homecare. Also, many grew up before the Quiet Revolution and don't have strong French-language skills.

Although English-speaking Quebecers have a right to English-language health and social services, this right is limited to the capacity of an institution to provide services in English. While some institutions are legally designated to do so — meaning one can insist on a certain

level of bilingualism when hiring — most institutions in Quebec, including most outside of Montreal, have no such obligation.

With an election campaign now upon us, Seniors Action Quebec, which represents English-speaking seniors in Quebec, is launching an appeal to the five principal political party leaders to articulate a clear and detailed vision for a new robust policy on seniors.

Various studies have asserted that Quebec has historically underfunded homecare in favour of institutional care. Quebec's Commissaire à la santé et au bien-être came to the same conclusion in a 2024 report. We agree that homecare needs to be a top priority. Seniors want to stay at home as long as possible.

So here is our appeal to the party leaders: Tell voters, before election day, what your plan for seniors will contain; commit to a funding target for homecare; and commit to respecting the linguistic and cultural needs of all of Quebec's seniors — including access to services in English.

The best ideas should win. But first, we need to hear them.

Mona Beck

Mona Beck is president of Seniors Action Quebec, a nonprofit organization that works to identify the needs and advance the interests of English-speaking seniors throughout Quebec.

First Councillor's Breakfast to Benefit the Lièvre Food Bank



Drazen Seslija

Buckingham residents are invited to a fundraising breakfast on Sunday, September 13, starting at 10:00 am, at the Buckingham Community Centre at 181 Joseph Street.

Organized by the local councillor Edmond Leclerc and his team, along with partners, this first annual Buckingham Councillor's Breakfast aims to support the Lièvre Food Bank. All proceeds from the event will be donated to the organization. Participants are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items to be donated to the food bank.

In addition to raising money for an important cause, the event will provide an opportunity for residents to connect in a friendly atmosphere. The menu will include scrambled eggs, sausages, bacon, tea and coffee. Tickets are available for \$35 and can be purchased online through the Zeffy platform.

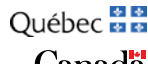


Pilgrims gathered at the shrine of Our Lady of Knock in Mayo, Quebec, on Sunday, August 23. Mass was celebrated indoors due to the rainfall. Thousands have come from near and far over the 69 years of the pilgrimage to the site patterned after the Shrine in County Mayo, Ireland. (VL)

PHOTO: TERRY KIERNAN

West Quebec Post

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From: Six Generations of Irish in Mayo, by Patrick Ryan (1979)



The following excerpts are from a story, *Six Generations of Irish in Mayo* by the late Patrick Ryan. That story, in the *Post* dated March 14, 1979, was handed to me by Michael Kane who is instrumental in maintaining that history through the Mulgrave Mayo Cultural Association. I am grateful to Michael for sharing that story with us today. I also want to acknowledge and thank Dan Somers for his valuable insight into the life of his uncle Patrick Ryan as well as Tim and Debbie Ryan, Patrick's son and daughter.

PATRICK RYAN WROTE:

The first early settlers of the district now known as Mayo, Quebec, were people from Ireland. In the 1820s, they migrated to Canada because of famine, exile and eviction from their native land.

After a voyage of many hardships, they tracked their way inland following the Lievre River, settling in the rugged-hill terrain which they called Mayo after their homeland. Only after the giant trees were felled by hand could the first shelter be erected...since horses were a luxury, much of the heavy hauling and lifting was done by men and women working side by side.

Most of the necessities of life were either grown or traded at the general store for things not available at home, such as sugar, spices, tea, salt, etc.

EARLY PIONEERING

Lumbering was the main industry at this time in the area. After much hard labour the giant trees were converted into ashes to be sold in Bytown for potash. A pit in which the trees were burned is still to be seen in the south-west corner of the present cemetery in Mayo.

Mining also had a share in the life of the people. Black lead mines and Feldspar were developed to some extent. Mica mining and gravel pits of the district are still producing (1979).

Farming was the general routine of work of the people. The product of the farms helped to maintain their large families.

The women made all the clothing of these early pioneers. Sewing machines were unheard of and all the work was done by hand—often bone needles were used when steel ones were not available. Straw hats were made from stalks of unripened grain. Mitts, moccasins and even shoes were made from leather obtained from hides of cattle and deer.

COMMUNITY LIFE

The first church was built in 1855 and was named St. Malachy's after the patron saint of Ireland. In 1896, it was torn down and the present larger church was built on the same site—a well-known Mayo landmark.

The centre of entertainment was the Mayo Hall built just below the church (below the hill). People came from miles around to attend the dances held every Saturday night. The St. Patrick's Concert with all the local Irish families taking part climaxed the many winter night of practices for this much anticipated event in the community.

MAYO'S IRISH "ROOTS"

Some of the known families who came to Mayo, Quebec around 1846 were the Barrets, Rogers, Burkes (of which there were five different families) and the Dunnigans. Other families who settled in the community are the McCoys, McAndrews, Dohertys, Kellys, MacAlendins, O'Connors, Cooligans, MacDonalds, Lavells, McMahons, Maloneys, Murphys, Garveys, McNultys, McKales and the Caseys.

Some of the members of the original families still in Mayo are Mrs. Esther Lavell and her family, Mike Murphy, Albert Burke, Mr. And Mrs. John R. Lavell, Edmond McMahon and Mrs. McAlendin.

In conclusion, I am citing the beginning paragraphs of Patrick Ryan's story written in this paper's March 14, 1979 edition. The article, with the headline: *Mrs. Ruth Dunnigan Reminisces: Six Generations of Irish in Mayo*, has a photo of Ruth Dunnigan and her son Basil.

Ruth Burke and Edward Dunnigan, both born in Mayo, were married in 1927 at St. Malachy's Church. Their homestead was just over the hill from the church where they raised sheep and dairy farmed. Edward Dunnigan died in 1953. Ruth and her son Basil would have assumed all the farm-related work.

Basil married Jean Weatherdon. They had two children, Gail Anne (Kevin) Lambert and Edward (Julie) Dunnigan. Basil passed away on October 29, 2005, and Jean passed away on January 12, 2022.



Ukraine -- Democracy and Corruption

by Gwynne DYER

AUTHOR, HISTORIAN & INDEPENDENT JOURNALIST

"Democracy cannot be held hostage by Russia," said Mihaylo Fedorov, until recently Ukraine's defence minister. "We must find a legal, safe and realistic mechanism which will allow Ukraine to renew its full democratic process even in the conditions of a long war." Seven years after the last election, some Ukrainians are demanding a new one.

The protesters who have been outside President Volodymyr Zelensky's office on Ivan Franko Square since Fedorov was fired last month were still there the day after his nine-minute video went out on 18 August. However, they were not more numerous than the day before.

It has been seven years since the election that brought Zelensky to power in a landslide powered by widespread revulsion at the rampant corruption in the government. His popularity soared after the Russian invasion (90%), and four-and-a-half years into the war it's still at 65%. That's why Fedorov's bid to mobilise the people against him has failed.

There's a lot of dissent and dissatisfaction out there, no doubt, because the corruption problem is real. No year passes in Ukraine without arrests and trials of high-profile thieves right inside the government.

Zelensky's chief of staff, Andriy Yermak, resigned last year in the midst of a corruption scandal that also implicated the president's former business partner Timur Mindich (who fled abroad).

This year's premier outrage featured people connected to the state-owned nuclear power company who misappropriated \$3 million to pay bail for a former energy minister accused of money laundering. They have been arrested, as have been two senior state bank officials, while the deputy head of Zelensky's office has been fired.

Shocking, shameful stuff, but it's Standard Operating Procedure in post-Soviet political cultures where officials and politicians act as if they have the right to plunder the state. At least in Ukraine some of them are being arrested or dismissed, and Zelensky himself seems clean.

How does Ukraine compare with other post-Soviet states on the international Corruption Perception Index? Transparency International ranks it at 104 out of 182 countries, in the same group as Brazil and Argentina – and steadily improving. Only 23% of public service users paid a bribe in the previous 12 months.

Russia, by contrast, ranks 157, near the bottom of the list, in the same group as Chad and Zimbabwe. 34% of Russian individuals

paid bribes in the past year to public officials (health, education, police, etc.), and 71% of Russian companies bidding for state contracts get demands for bribes.

Ukraine is not good on the corruption front but it's getting better, and there's no strong case for 'throwing the rascals out'. But even if most people in the government are not rascals, seven years without an election is a long time. Surely democracy demands an election now – or at least the Russians and Donald Trump think so. They claim he has no legitimacy otherwise.

By the same logic, Winston Churchill should have called an election in 1940, when the United Kingdom was fighting the Germans all alone in the Battle of Britain, before either the Soviet Union or the United States had come into the war. The last election had been in 1935, so five years later Churchill had to hold an election or become illegitimate.

Nonsense. Parliament just passed laws each year posting the election by one year until peace was in sight in July 1945 (one month after D-Day) – and Churchill lost. The United States did hold an election in 1944, but the situation was different: no bombs, no refugees, no enemy country within reach. (Roosevelt won, then died within three months and Truman took over).

Circumstances alter cases. Countries a long way from the front line, not being bombed, with up-to-date voter registries can certainly hold elections in wartime: New Zealand did, South Africa did, Australia held two elections, Canada had two plus a plebiscite. But it's very hard to do it when bombs are dropping on the voters.

There could be a case for holding an election despite the nightly air raids on Ukrainian cities, the seven million citizens who have fled abroad or are living in occupied territories, and the very large number of soldiers in the trenches – but not many people in Ukraine are demanding it. Polls say that 70% would prefer to wait for peace, even though seven years is a long time.

So Mihaylo Fedorov is wrong to demand an election now, although he has been badly treated by Zelensky. He would be doubly wrong to meet Donald Trump during his forthcoming visit to the United States, because the US president, after consulting with Vladimir Putin in Moscow, would be only too happy to set him up as an alternative to Zelensky.



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MESSAGE DU PRÉSIDENT

Bienvenue à la 170e édition de l'Expo Shawville

Du 3 au 6 septembre 2026

Alors que nous nous préparons pour la 170e édition de l'Expo Shawville, je ne peux m'empêcher d'éprouver un sentiment de fierté. Cette foire occupe une place importante dans la vie de ma famille depuis plus de 40 ans. Ma mère en a été présidente, mon père aussi, et aujourd'hui, j'ai eu la chance d'en assumer la présidence en cette année marquante. Je sais que mon mandat de président ne représente qu'une infime partie des 170 ans d'histoire de la foire, mais c'est un honneur de contribuer à perpétuer une tradition qui compte tant pour ma famille et pour notre communauté.

Je dois l'admettre, je n'ai jamais été le meilleur *showman* du 4-H quand j'étais jeune. J'ai tout de même réussi à remporter quelques concours de jeunes taureaux en cours de route, mais ce n'est pas vraiment dans les expositions de bétail que je me suis illustré. Ce que j'ai le plus apprécié, c'était d'apporter mon aide en coulisses. Que ce soit pour tout installer avant la foire ou pour tout démonter une fois celle-ci terminée, j'ai toujours aimé faire partie de l'équipe.

Au fil des ans, j'ai rencontré beaucoup d'amis pour la vie grâce au bénévolat, et ces amitiés comptent autant pour moi que n'importe quel ruban que j'ai pu remporter. C'est l'une des choses qui rend l'Expo Shawville si spéciale.

J'ai toujours été convaincu que si l'on ne sait pas évoluer, on finit par se faire distancer. Je souhaite simplement continuer à l'améliorer tout en respectant les traditions qui nous ont permis d'en arriver là.

Au cours des deux dernières années, nous avons travaillé fort pour améliorer la circulation sur le site, car notre fréquentation ne cesse d'augmenter. L'année dernière, nous avons bougé la tente de bière et modifié la disposition de l'espace de restauration. Cela avait bien fonctionné et avait permis aux visiteurs de disposer de plus d'espace pour se déplacer et profiter pleinement de la fête.

Cette année, nous apportons un autre changement majeur

en déplaçant l'épreuve de traction de camions à l'extérieur de l'aire de concours. Nous espérons que cela offrira une meilleure vue aux spectateurs, libérera davantage d'espace et continuera d'attirer certains des meilleurs camions et concurrents à Shawville. Une autre raison majeure de ce changement est de préserver notre manège équestre. Après le concours de traction de camions le jeudi soir, nous avons souvent eu du mal à remettre le manège en parfait état pour nos épreuves équestres. En déplaçant le concours de traction de camions à l'extérieur de l'aire de concours, nous espérons améliorer les conditions de sol pour nos concurrents équestres.

Nous sommes également ravis de proposer un tout nouveau spectacle de bûcherons, qui se déroulera à l'emplacement où se trouvait l'an dernier la tente dédiée aux chevaux de trait, et devrait ravir petits et grands.

Une autre chose dont je suis fier, c'est que nous avons augmenté le budget consacré aux animations cette année. Cela signifie des spectacles plus importants et davantage de raisons pour les visiteurs de passer la journée à la foire. Chaque édition réussie nous offre une nouvelle occasion de réinvestir et de l'améliorer encore davantage.

L'Expo Shawville a également continué à investir dans notre communauté en soutenant l'aréna de Shawville et le Fonds pour l'aréna de Pontiac. J'espère que nos municipalités pourront continuer à travailler ensemble pour faire de l'aréna de Shawville un lieu dont toute notre région pourra à nouveau être fière.

Rien de tout cela ne serait possible sans nos bénévoles. Des milliers d'heures de bénévolat sont consacrées à l'organisation de l'Expo chaque année. Je tiens à remercier nos administrateurs, les membres des comités, les bénévoles et les commanditaires. C'est grâce à votre travail acharné et à votre soutien que cette foire continue de prospérer après 170 ans.

Pour finir, je tiens à remercier tous ceux qui franchissent



Les membres du conseil d'administration de la Société d'agriculture du Pontiac se réunissent sur les bleachers de la foire historique.
Members of the Pontiac Agricultural Society Board gather on the bleachers of the fair's historic

Back row: Brian Lepine, Mike Rusenstrom, Heather Rusenstrom, Sally, Kayla E. Coles, Danielle Humble, Cheryl Bezoine, Vince Perrier, Gerald Dagg; 2nd row: Ken Bernard, Elwyn Lang; Front row: Mavis Hanna, Holly Campbell, Scott Lem. Campbell; Missing: Lisa Coles, Curtis Driscoll, Ben Duquette, Hugo Gauthier,

nos portes chaque année. Que vous participiez à des concours d'élevage, à des épreuves de traction de camions, que vous exposiez vos œuvres, que vous soyez bénévole, que vous parrainiez un événement ou que vous veniez simplement avec votre famille passer une journée agréable, c'est grâce à vous que l'Expo Shawville est si spéciale.

J'espère vous voir tous à la 170e Expo Shawville. Venez nombreux, profitez de toutes les animations que nous avons prévues, soutenez votre foire locale et aidez-nous à célébrer 170 ans d'agriculture, de vie communautaire et de tradition.

Ralph Lang
Président,
Expo Shawville Fair

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We'd like to welcome everyone to the Shawville Fair and we hope you have a fun and safe weekend.

Nous souhaitons la bienvenue à tous à la Foire de Shawville et nous espérons que vous passerez une fin de semaine amusante et sécuritaire.

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3 AU 7 SEPTEMBRE - SEPTEMBER 3 - 7

À SHAWVILLE, LA FAMILLE EST AU COEUR DE L'EXPO - THE VALLEY'S MOST FAMILY FRIENDLY FAIR



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the 170th Shawville Fair

September 3 to 7, 2026



Pontiac se rassemblent dans les gradins du champ de foire de Shawville en vue du 170e anniversaire historique de la foire.

ers at the Shawville Fairgrounds as final preparations get underway for 170th anniversary.

Barnes, Ryan Currie, Kait Meilleur, Geatan Boudrias; 3rd row: Paul Lang, Dave : Pat Bertrand, Paul Scheel, Nancy Tubman, Sandra Dale, Beth Knox Campbell, ay, Ralph Lang (President), Josey Bouchard, Kendal Lang, Heather Dale, Hayley Tanya Greer, Gerald Lance, Kelly King (Photo: Pontiac Ag Society)

As we get ready for the 170th Shawville Fair, I can't help but feel proud. The Fair has been a big part of my family's life for over 40 years. My mom was President, my dad was President, and now I've had the chance to serve as President during this milestone year. I know my time as President is only one small part of the Fair's 170-year history, but it's been an honour to help carry on a tradition that means so much to my family and to our community.

I have to admit, I was never the best 4-H showman growing up. I did manage to win a few steer competitions along the way, but showing cattle was never really where I made my mark. What I enjoyed most was helping behind the scenes. Whether it was setting up before the Fair or tearing everything down after it was over, I always liked being part of the team.

Over the years I met a lot of lifelong friends through volunteering, and those friendships mean just as much to

me as any ribbon I've ever won. That's one of the things that makes the Shawville Fair so special. It brings people together, and those memories and friendships last a lifetime.

One thing I've always believed is that if you don't keep changing, you get left behind. That's how I've always run my own business, and I think it's important for the Fair too. I don't want to change what makes the Shawville Fair special. I just want to keep making it better while respecting the traditions that got us here.

Over the last couple of years we've worked hard to improve the flow around the grounds as our crowds continue to grow. Last year we turned the beer tent and changed the layout around the food court. It worked well and gave people more room to move around and enjoy themselves. Those ideas came from great discussions with our board members and volunteers. I appreciate everyone's willingness to share ideas and work together to make the Fair better.

This year we're making another big change by moving the truck pull outside the ring. We hope it gives spectators a better view, creates more space, and keeps attracting some of the best trucks and competitors to Shawville. Another big reason for the move is to protect our horse ring. After Thursday night's truck pull, we've often had challenges getting the ring back into top shape for our horse events. By moving the truck pull outside the ring, we hope to improve the footing for our horse exhibitors while still putting on an even better truck pull for the fans. I believe it's a win for everyone.

We're also excited to bring in a brand-new lumberjack show. It'll be located where the heavy horse tent was last year and should be a great show for kids and adults alike. Trying new things keeps the Fair exciting and gives families even more to enjoy.

Another thing I'm proud of is that we've increased our entertainment budget this year. That means bigger acts

and more reasons for people to spend the day at the Fair. If Mother Nature cooperates and we get good crowds, my hope is that we can continue putting money back into the Fair each year. Every successful Fair gives us another chance to reinvest and make it even better.

The Shawville Fair has also continued to invest in our community by supporting the Shawville Arena and the Pontiac Arena Fund. I hope our municipalities can continue working together to make the Shawville Arena something our whole region can be proud of again. A strong arena and a strong fairgrounds help build a stronger community.

None of this would be possible without our volunteers. Thousands of volunteer hours go into putting on the Shawville Fair every single year. I'd like to thank our directors, committee members, volunteers, sponsors, and major sponsors. Your hard work and support are the reason this Fair is still going strong after 170 years.

Finally, I'd like to thank everyone who comes through our gates each year. Whether you're showing livestock, pulling a truck, exhibiting your work, volunteering, sponsoring an event, or simply bringing your family for a fun day, you're what makes the Shawville Fair special.

My goal has always been simple: respect our traditions while making sure we're ready for the future. If we keep working together, listening to new ideas, and never stop improving, I believe the Shawville Fair will continue to grow and thrive for generations to come.

I hope to see everyone at the 170th Shawville Fair. Come out, enjoy everything we have planned, support your local Fair, and help us celebrate 170 years of agriculture, community, and tradition.

"If you build it, they will come." #Shawvegas2026

Ralph Lang
President,
Shawville Fair

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Expo Shawville Fair

3 AU 7 SEPTEMBRE - SEPTEMBER 3 - 7

À SHAWVILLE, LA FAMILLE EST AU COEUR DE L'EXPO - THE VALLEY'S MOST FAMILY FRIENDLY FAIR



Nous fêtons nos 170 ans

De beaux souvenirs de l'Expo Shawville

WILLIAM DALE

SHAWVILLE – Depuis 170 ans, champ de foire de Shawville est au cœur de la vie communautaire de la région de Pontiac. Alors que la Société d'agriculture s'apprête à célébrer cet anniversaire marquant, les habitués de longue date de la foire, les anciens dirigeants et les forains locaux se remémorent une vie entière de souvenirs chers : des 25 cents d'argent de poche aux victoires historiques dans les concours, en passant par des tours en hélicoptère et les promenades nostalgiques de la fin des années 1950.

De la barbe à papa et des souvenirs de papa

Pour Earleen Devine, ses plus beaux souvenirs remontent à la fin des années 1950, alors qu'elle avait cinq ou six ans et qu'elle se promenait dans l'enceinte de la fête foraine en tenant la main de son père.

Comme ils habitaient juste en bas de la rue, la fête foraine était un rendez-vous annuel incontournable où son père la présentait aux gens en l'appelant « la petite », tandis qu'elle s'imprégnait des images et des sons de l'endroit.

« Sa grande main était mon filet de sécurité », se souvient Devine, évoquant l'odeur persistante du bois vieilli dans l'ancien pavillon d'exposition octogonal, les chevaux imposants que son père adorait caresser, et la recherche palpitante des pièces de monnaie égarées sous la

vieille estrade couverte en bois. Sa tradition foraine comprenait toujours une boîte de Cracker Jack et une friandise que sa mère, d'origine britannique, appelait « candy floss » plutôt que « barbe à papa ». « Je n'ai jamais été très courageuse face aux manèges », confie Devine, précisant qu'elle n'osait monter sur la grande roue que si son père s'asseyait à côté d'elle pour que l'opérateur ne fasse pas balancer le siège.

— Suite en p. 9



Nick Leuders encourage his young son Jaxson at the 2023 Fair.

Celebrating 170 years

Cherished memories from the Shawville Fair

WILLIAM DALE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

SHAWVILLE – For 170 years, the Shawville Fairgrounds have stood at the heart of community life in the Pontiac. As the Agricultural Society prepares to celebrate its milestone anniversary this summer, long-time fairgoers, former directors, and local showmen are looking back on a lifetime of cherished memories from 25-cent allowances and historic

show ring victories to life-changing helicopter rides and nostalgic late-1950s strolls.

Candy floss, lost change, and a father's steady hand

For Earleen Devine, her fondest memories date back to the late 1950s when she was five or six years old, walking the fairgrounds holding her father's hand. Living just down the street, the fair was an annual highlight where her dad introduced her to folks as "the baby" while taking in the sights and sounds.

"His big hand was my safety net," Devine recalled, remembering the steady smell of aged wood in the old octagonal exhibition hall, the heavy horses her dad loved to pat, and the thrilling search for loose coins dropped under the old covered wooden grandstand. Her fair tradition always included a box of Cracker Jack and a treat her British-born mother called "candy floss" rather than cotton candy. "I was never very brave about the midway rides," Devine shared, noting she would only brave the Ferris wheel if her dad sat beside her so the operator wouldn't rock the seat.

25 cents and a horse-and-buggy trip

At nearly 101 years old, local retired carpenter and builder Elden Zimmerling remembers going to the fair as a child with his parents and nine siblings, travelling in by horse and buggy from Bristol. "We got 25 cents to spend," Zimmerling recalled with a smile. "There wasn't much money around back then, but we made an effort to go."

— "Fair" pg 9

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À SHAWVILLE, LA FAMILLE EST AU COEUR DE L'EXPO - THE VALLEY'S MOST FAMILY FRIENDLY FAIR



Expo — de la p. 8

25 cents et un trajet en caliche

À près de 101 ans, Elden Zimmerling, menuisier et maçon retraité originaire de la région, se souvient d'être allé la fête foraine quand il était enfant avec ses parents et ses neuf frères et sœurs, après avoir fait le trajet depuis Bristol en calèche. « On nous donnait 25 cents à dépenser », se souvient M. Zimmerling avec le sourire. « On n'avait pas beaucoup d'argent à l'époque, mais on faisait l'effort d'y aller. »

Ce voyage d'enfance a marqué le début d'une tradition qui allait durer toute une vie. Zimmerling a assisté sans interruption à la foire de Shawville pendant près d'un siècle, s'y rendant chaque année jusqu'en 2022 environ. Pendant quelques-unes de ces années, il a été bien plus qu'un simple spectateur : il a installé son propre kiosque sur le site, où il exposait ses créations en bois tournées à la main pour les présenter aux visiteurs de la foire. « J'ai été le premier à lancer cette initiative », se souvient Zimmerling. « J'ai exposé mes créations à plusieurs reprises. »

Zimmerling, qui a passé des décennies à construire des maisons, des églises et des monuments emblématiques dans toute la région, a souligné à quel point cet événement avait évolué, passant d'un rassemblement local discret où les gens arrivaient à cheval et en charrette à l'événement régional de grande envergure qu'il est aujourd'hui. « Avant, on arrivait et on connaissait le nom de tout le monde », a déclaré Zimmerling. « Aujourd'hui, c'est sans aucun doute une foule immense. »

Un vol qui a inspiré un futur pilote

Pour Eric Smith, un résident de longue date, un moment marquant vécu à la foire a été à l'origine d'une passion qui allait durer toute sa vie. Après avoir survolé le champ de foire en hélicoptère pendant la fin de semaine de la foire en septembre 1985, Smith a eu envie de pousser plus loin sa passion pour l'aviation. « Après ce premier vol en hélicoptère, j'ai obtenu mon permis de pilote et j'ai consacré mon temps libre à voler », a confié Smith. Des décennies plus tard, son amour pour cette tradition annuelle n'a pas faibli. « J'apprécie toujours autant l'Expo Shawville ;



En 1985, Eric Smith a effectué son premier vol en hélicoptère, marquant ainsi le début d'une passion pour l'aviation ; tout a commencé à la foire de Shawville.

In 1985, Eric Smith took his first helicopter ride that started his life long enjoyment of flying; it all started at the Shawville Fair.

on se voit bientôt au kiosque d'aliments du Club Lions ! »

Du dernier classement à Premier Éleveur

Pour Brian Tubman, issu d'une famille d'éleveurs laitiers locaux, son implication dans la foire a commencé dès qu'il a eu l'âge de rejoindre le club 4-H. Au fil des décennies passées dans le ring du bétail, Tubman a vécu sous tous les angles la concurrence féroce des concours locaux de vaches Holstein (« noires et blanches »). « Quand nous avons commencé à participer aux concours, ma mère était gênée lorsque nous arrivions bons derniers », raconte Tubman en riant. « S'il y avait eu cinq ou six animaux de plus, nous aurions été encore plus bas dans le classement. Mais nous avons fini par remonter la pente, de la dernière place jusqu'au sommet. »

Cet engagement a abouti, en 1977, à une victoire

historique : les prix de Premier Éleveur, de Premier Exposant, de Grande Championne et de Grand Champion ont tous été remportés au cours de la même année. Les petits-enfants du frère de Tubman participent actuellement aux concours et perpétuent la tradition familiale des expositions de bétail à la foire.

Au fil de 170 ans de croissance, d'époques changeantes et d'attractions en constante évolution, ceux qui connaissent le mieux cette foire s'accordent à dire que son essence reste inchangée : une célébration de l'agriculture locale, de la famille et des racines communautaires. Depuis des générations, l'Expo Shawville rassemble les gens et crée des souvenirs qui se transmettent de génération en génération.

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À SHAWVILLE, LA FAMILLE EST AU COEUR DE L'EXPO - THE VALLEY'S MOST FAMILY FRIENDLY FAIR



Fair — from p. 8

That childhood trip sparked a lifelong routine. Zimmerling attended the Shawville Fair continuously for nearly a century, going every single year until about 2022. For a couple of those years, he was more than just a spectator—he participated in the handicrafts division, bringing his handmade lathe woodwork to display, and winning first place ribbons several times.

Zimmerling, who spent decades building homes, churches, and local landmarks across the region, noted how much the event has evolved from a quiet local gathering where folks arrived by horse and wagon to the massive regional draw it is today. "You used to walk in and know everybody's name," Zimmerling said. "Now it's a big crowd for sure."

A flight that inspired a pilot's license

For long-time resident Eric R. Smith, one standout moment at the fairgrounds set off a lifelong passion. After taking a helicopter ride over the fairgrounds during fair weekend in September 1985, Smith was inspired to take his love of aviation to the next level.

"After that first helicopter ride I got my pilot license and spent my free time enjoying flying," Smith shared.

Decades later, his love for the annual tradition hasn't faded. "I am still enjoying Shawville Fair; see you soon at the



Local builder Elden Zimmerling, who turns 101 in September, sits inside his Shawville home. Zimmerling reflects on nearly a century of attending the Shawville Fair ahead of its 170th milestone anniversary.

Lions Club food booth!"

From bottom of the class to premier breeder

For Brian Tubman, involvement with the fair began as soon as he was old enough to join 4-H, coming from a local dairy farming family. Over decades in the livestock ring,



« Dot », la vache Grande Championne élevée à la ferme, photographiée par Patty Jones dans un portrait professionnel. Au cours d'une année exceptionnelle, en 1977, cette vache a contribué à mener la famille à un triomphe historique à l'Expo de Shawville, où elle a remporté les titres de Premier Éleveur, Premier Exposant, Grande Championne et Champion Junior

(Photo fournie par le Dr Brian Tubman)

Tubman experienced the fierce competition of the local Holstein ("Black and White") shows from every angle. "When we started showing, my mother was embarrassed when we came in dead last," Tubman laughed. "If there had been another five or six animals, we would have been further down. But we eventually worked our way from the bottom up to the top."

That dedication culminated in a historic sweep, in 1977, winning Premier Breeder, Premier Exhibitor, Grand Champion Female,

and Junior Champion all in a single year. Tubman's brother's grandchildren are currently competing and carrying on the family's cattle showing tradition at the fair.

Through 170 years of growth, changing times, and evolving attractions, those who know the fair best agree that its heart remains unchanged: a celebration of local agriculture, family, and community roots. For generations, the Shawville Fair has brought people together, creating memories that are passed down from one generation to the next.



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Expo Shawville Fair

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Sophie Chatel
Députée de / Member of Parliament
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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.

HELP WANTED

COLLECTION OF NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS AND HYGIENE PRODUCTS FOR THE AYLMEER 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. Thank you for your generosity!

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BECAUSE WE HAVE YOUR ACTIVITIES AT HEART COMMUNITY EVENTS



AYLMER LEGION - 59 BANCROFT STREET - August 29 at 1 p.m.: Cribbage Tournament. -Sept. 1 at 9 a.m.: Chair-Assisted Yoga. -Sept. 3 at 9 a.m.: Chair Yoga. -Sept. 10 at 6:30 p.m.: 500 Card League. -Sept. 11 at 7 p.m.: Darts League. -Sept. 14 at 6:30 p.m.: Euchre League. -Sept. 15 at 10 a.m.: Coffee Morning Get Together. All are welcome. Info or questions? Contact 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 / Limited places. Nouveau programme / New program. Service de cantine / Canteen service. 819 684-7888 ou/ou 819 230-2240.

OLD AYLMEER PUBLIC MARKET From June 7 to October 4, come discover Gatineau's largest public market! Every Sunday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Parc Commémoratif. More than 40 local farmers, food producers, artisans, and makers will be on site. Enjoy a friendly atmosphere, live music, and fresh local products. A perfect outing for the whole family! 117 Rue Principale, Gatineau (Aylmer).

OUR LADY OF THE ANNUNCIATION ANNUAL INDOOR GARAGE SALE. 189 Archambault, Hull Sector, Gatineau. Saturday, September 12th, 8 am - 1:00 pm. Household and personal items, jewellery, tools, toys, Christmas items and baked goods. Hot dogs and drinks.

For further information: 819-661-9268.

SYMMES INN MUSEUM Our escape room, "Robbery at the Aquatic Club", awaits you Wednesday through Sunday during the 2026 summer season. Solve puzzles and have lots of fun with your group. Can you find the thief and escape the room within the time limit? We look forward to seeing you! Info: 819-682-0291. Registration: <https://www.symmesevasion.ca/>.

THE FESTIVAL AU PARC, located behind L'Imagier, near the Aylmer marina, invites you to discover local artists in a warm and intimate atmosphere. At the park's refreshment stand, come discover a unique restaurant and microbrewery! Saturday, August 29: Marie-Hélène Frenette Assad at 7 p.m. and Céleste Lévis at 8 p.m. At the refreshment stand: Poukham and La Dérive. Saturday, September 12: Nick Schofield performs at 7 p.m. and Pony Girl at 8 p.m. At the refreshment stand (meal and beverage options): Ras l'bol. The 3rd edition of Au Parc is produced by l'Imagier. Free admission. Bring your own chairs or blankets.

WILD N'OUEST LINE DANCING FOR BEGINNERS EVERY SUNDAY AT PUTTERS from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. \$10 per person. No registration required. 6:00 p.m.: Arrive early, grab a drink, and come socialize; 7:00 p.m.: Line dance class begins; 8:00 p.m.: Open line dancing. Come one, come all! 181 Principale Street, Gatineau, QC.

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Shawville 4-H annual Achievement Day

WILLIAM DALE

SHAWVILLE – The Shawville Fairgrounds were bustling with activity on Sunday, August 23, as local youth gathered for the annual Shawville 4-H Club Achievement Day.

Bringing together members aged 6 to 25, the event marked the culmination of months of hands-on preparation.

The weekend kicked off on Friday evening with the official judging.

"All of our age groups come here and do judging of various classes," explained Amy Sheppard, past member and organizer.. "Points



Contestants line up with their cows entered in the Dairy Heifer class, during the 4-H Achievement Day competition.

accumulate from tonight toward their aggregate points at the end of the year."

On Sunday, members returned bright and early for the official show ring competitions. Classes spanned dairy, beef, market

steers, sheep, goats, rabbits, horses, and life skills projects.

Sheppard noted the level of dedication required by the young competitors leading up to the event. "Some kids picked up their steers in the fall, and some started with

their sheep as soon as they were born in January," Sheppard said.

Official judges for the day included Heidi McFadden (Beef), Courtney Orser (Dairy), Shannon Townsend (Light Horse), Vincent Perrier



From left: Kathleen Kelly with the Honourable Mention heifer, Reserve Grand Champion Khloë Drummond holding the Reserve banner, Grand Champion Mackenzie St-Pierre alongside her little sister Andrea St-Pierre holding the Supreme Champion banner, and dairy judge Courtney Orser.

(Mini Horse), Kassidy Cavanagh (Goat), Loraine Hamilton (Rabbits), and Riley Larivière (Sheep).

Following Sunday's classes and an overall showmanship competition, everyone celebrated with a community

ice cream sundae bar. Many 4-H members will now prepare for the upcoming Shawville Fair regional show.

For complete list of winners go to:
www.pontiacjournal.com

Shawville Arena Fund Surpasses \$400,000

WILLIAM DALE

SHAWVILLE – Community momentum behind the restoration of the Pontiac Arena continues to build at an impressive pace. Just over a year since launching its first official event, the Pontiac Arena Fund committee has officially crossed the \$400,000 threshold in raised capital. Led by committee spokesperson Mike Rusenstrom, the fundraising push aims to modernize, repair, and sustain the vital regional hub. The project kicked off with its inaugural event on May 8, 2025, and has seen unwavering

support from local residents, businesses, and community organizations.

The \$400,000 raised to date serves a strategic purpose: it satisfies the 34% community contribution required for a \$1-million grant application submitted in late June through the Ministry of Education's PAFIRSPA program (Programme d'aide au développement des infrastructures récréatives et sportives). Working in partnership with the Shawville Agricultural Society the owner of the arena facility, the committee designed the grant proposal to target

major structural upgrades. Planned improvements focus heavily on enhancing accessibility, boosting energy efficiency, and replacing core mechanical components, including the facility's cooling plant.

Parallel to the committee's grant initiative, the Municipality of Shawville is replacing a condenser unit at the arena this summer, marking another key step forward in modernizing the facility.

A series of successful summer initiatives helped push the fundraising tally past its latest milestone:

Ford Drive 4 UR

Community: Held on Canada Day, the event pledged \$30 per test drive up to \$6,000. Local drivers turned out in

full force to help the committee max out the donation from Ford Canada. Canada Day Flea Market: Organized by Chris Beimers and his family inside the arena, the market raised an additional

\$6,500 for the fund.

Looking ahead, the committee is preparing for its next flagship fundraiser, the annual Ladies' Night, scheduled for September 18 at the Agricultural Hall.

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