



PAGE
5
VICTOR
Laurin

Patrick Ryan
Remembered



PAGE
5
GWYNNE
Dyer

AI and Bio-weapons

1

Yearly subscription \$39.09 w/taxes

VOLUME 131 | EDITION 12 | LE VENDREDI 14 AOÛT 2026 | FRIDAY AUGUST 14, 2026 | 181, RUE PRINCIPALE, BUREAU C10, GATINEAU, QC J9H 6A6

Farrellton seed grower Catherine Wallenburg named Outaouais finalist in provincial agriculture competition

Farrellton organic seed grower Catherine Wallenburg, whose company Northern Seeds develops more than 120 certified-organic varieties adapted to Canada's short growing seasons, has been named the Outaouais finalist in La Financière agricole du Québec's 21st Turn Towards Excellence competition. (TF)
PHOTO: COURTESY OF NORTHERN SEEDS

See story on page 2



**Cheese
recalled in
Outaouais
due to risk of
contamination**

Page 3

**Expanded
English
mental health
services**

Page 6

**New patient
navigator for
Outaouais
English
speakers**

Page 7

**Xavier
Lusignan
Wins
Bronze at
Commonwealth
Games**

Page 8

**Nearly \$21
million to
proceed with
the Outaouais
Regional
Museum**

Page 9

**Shawville Fair
schedule**

Page 12

Farrellton seed grower Catherine Wallenburg named Outaouais finalist in provincial agriculture competition



Tashi Farmilo
LJJ Reporter

Catherine Wallenburg, the organic seed grower behind Northern Seeds in Farrellton, has been chosen as the Outaouais region's finalist in La Financière agricole du Québec's 21st annual Turn Towards Excellence competition, the corporation announced July 15 in Lévis. She is one of 10 finalists selected from across the province for the strength of their entrepreneurial profiles, their achievements and their management abilities.

The competition recognizes young agricultural entrepreneurs, and Wallenburg was singled out for her work advancing seed diversity and adapting

plant varieties to Canadian growing conditions. According to the corporation's profile, her business has found commercial success while staying rooted in sustainable development, with an approach meant to strengthen biodiversity and food resilience for the gardeners who come after her.

That mission sits at the centre of the company Wallenburg founded on a 100-acre property in Farrellton, roughly 45 minutes north of Gatineau, in January 2020. Northern Seeds now offers more than 120 varieties of vegetable, herb and flower seed, all of them certified organic and open-pollinated, and none genetically modified, according to the company's website. The farm grows the plants, lets them go to seed, then cleans and packages the seed to sell under its own label. It also

raises grass-finished cattle.

The company frames its purpose around a changing climate. Its stated aim is to develop varieties suited to Canada's cold winters and short growing seasons, running trials to find seed that is productive, disease-resistant and able to withstand extreme weather. Wallenburg has described that work as tied to the resilience of the food system itself, the idea being that seed adapted to local conditions gives farmers a better chance as growing conditions shift.

Wallenburg was born and raised in Montreal before building her life on the land in western Quebec, working farms in the Gatineau Hills and spending several seasons at a community-supported market garden in the La Pêche area before striking

out on her own. Her seed business drew wider attention during the early pandemic years, when demand surged and gardeners rushed to secure supply.

The winners of the Turn Towards Excellence competition will be announced in November at the management symposium organized by the Quebec Centre of Reference in Agriculture and Agri-food, with prizes totalling \$18,000. Over its 21 editions, the competition has supported more than 500 young agricultural entrepreneurs and awarded close to \$250,000 in scholarships.

For Wallenburg, the recognition lands close to the reason she started. "I am proud to advance seed diversity and the adaptation of varieties to the Canadian context," she said.

Legionnaires' disease cases climb to 15 in Aylmer as health officials search for the source



Tashi Farmilo
LJJ Reporter

The number of Legionnaires' disease cases in Aylmer has climbed to 15 since June 19, and Santé Québec Outaouais is urging residents to stay alert while investigators

keep working to find where the bacteria are coming from. The regional health authority first raised the alarm on July 15, reporting nine cases among people who live in or had spent time in Aylmer. By July 23, the agency said the total had risen to 15, most of them in the neighbourhood.

That is well above what the region normally sees. Officials say the Outaouais usually records between six and eight cases in an entire year. This time, 15 have turned up in barely a month. The people who fell ill in the first group ranged in age from 25 to 74, with an average age of 55.

Investigators have not yet pinned down exactly where the bacteria are spreading from, but several possible sources in the environment are being examined. The water-cooling towers in Aylmer that are registered with Quebec's Régie du bâtiment have been checked and decontaminated, the agency said, and it added on July 23 that clean-up work had been done in some areas linked to known cases. Officials warned that Legionella bacteria can lurk in many everyday water sources, and that more cases could still come to light.

Here is what matters most for people living in Aylmer. Legionnaires' disease, also called legionellosis, is a lung infection contracted by breathing in tiny droplets of contaminated water, from things like cooling towers, water heaters and spas. It does not pass from one person to another,

and it cannot be caught by drinking the water. It often looks like pneumonia, and the agency says the warning signs include a high fever, chills, cough, fatigue, headache, muscle aches, chest pain and loss of appetite. Some people also become nauseous, have diarrhea or grow confused.

Most healthy people recover quickly, but Santé Québec Outaouais says 10 to 15 per cent of cases can turn serious. The Public Health Agency of Canada notes that symptoms can appear anywhere from two to 14 days after exposure, and that most cases can be treated with antibiotics if caught in time. The risk of a severe illness is higher for people 50 and over, smokers, and anyone with a chronic lung, heart or kidney condition, diabetes, or a weakened immune system.

The message from health officials is simple. Anyone who lives or has been in Aylmer in the past two weeks and starts feeling these symptoms should not wait it out. Info-Santé 811 or a health professional can help.

At home, one of the simplest ways to lower the risk is to keep the hot water tank turned up to 60 C, with an anti-scald device on the shower and bath taps, and to run the hot water for a few minutes after a prolonged absence or when the tank has gone unused for several days. That keeps the water hot enough to stop the bacteria from taking hold.



La sécurité, une priorité!

ATTENTION!

Restez toujours à l'écart des barrages. À proximité de ceux-ci, les conditions de l'eau peuvent changer rapidement et sans préavis.

RESPECTEZ TOUJOURS LES AVERTISSEMENTS!

Safety, a Priority!

WARNING!

Always stay clear of dams. Near them, water conditions can change quickly and without notice.

ALWAYS RESPECT WARNING SIGNS AND SIGNALS!



1.877.986.4364

infolalievre@energiebrookfield.com
energiebrookfieldan.com/securite-publique

Énergie
Brookfield
Renewable

www.westquebecpost.com

Pride week returns to the Outaouais with Jeunesse Idem's 2026 lineup



Tashi Farmilo
LJJ Reporter

Jeunesse Idem, the Gatineau community organization serving 2SLGBTQIA+ youth across the Outaouais, has released its 2026 Pride week schedule, a run of activities from August 21 to August 30 built for families, teenagers, young adults and adults that leads up to the Capital Pride parade in Ottawa. The lineup mixes Jeunesse Idem's own events with those of its partners, and the group has noted that some activities require registration in advance.

The week opens on August 21 with a flag-raising ceremony at 10 am at the Maison du Citoyen, 25 Rue Laurier, followed that evening by "Show Queer," a comedy and music show from 5 pm to 7 pm at 173 Rue Wellington. Storytelling sessions aimed at younger crowds are set for August 23, from 10 am to 1:30 pm at the Bibliothèque Guy-Sanche, 855 Boulevard de la Gappe, and again on August 29, from 10 am to noon at the Bibliothèque Lucy-Faris, 115 Rue

Principale. Nirstaïpe, at 3 Rue Kent, hosts a musical bingo on August 26 from 6 pm to 9 pm and a karaoke night on August 27 starting at 9 pm, while August 27 also brings a community meet-up. A quiz evening runs from 5 pm to 9 pm on August 28 at Nirstaïpe, alongside an anniversary picnic at Parc Fontaine, 120 Rue Charlevoix, a "friperie," a DJ set for teens, a 6 pm screening of the film "Les furies" at 173 Rue Wellington, and an over-18 cruise at 7:15 pm the same day. The festival closes with the parade in Ottawa on August 30, part of Capital Pride.

Partners for the festival include Nirstaïpe, Fierté Capitale, Trans Outaouais, the City of Gatineau, Vision Centre-Ville Gatineau and Tourisme Outaouais. For an organization founded in 1995 to improve the quality of life of 2SLGBTQIA+ youth aged roughly 7 to 35, the ten days amount to more than a calendar of events. Each storytelling session, drag show and street gathering turns the region's support into something visible.



Jeunesse Idem has unveiled its 2026 Pride week schedule, ten days of activities across the Outaouais from August 21 to 30 that build toward the Capital Pride parade in Ottawa. (TF)

PHOTO: TASHI FARMILO

Cheese recalled in Outaouais due to risk of contamination



Drazen Seslija

The Quebec Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food (MAPAQ), in collaboration with La Trappe à fromage de l'Outaouais, is asking the public not to consume "Grondines" cheese, which may contain the bacterium *Staphylococcus*

aureus.

The recall applies to units sold between July 9 and 16. The refrigerated cheese, sold by weight, was wrapped in plastic film and sold at the company's two locations: 114 Saint-Raymond Boulevard in Gatineau (Hull sector) and 193 Old Chelsea Road, Suite 105, in Chelsea.

The company is recalling the product as a precautionary measure, in collaboration

with the MAPAQ and the City of Montreal's Food Inspection Division. Consumers who have this cheese in their possession should not consume it, even if it shows no signs of spoilage or has no unusual odor.

According to the MAPAQ, food poisoning caused by *Staphylococcus* bacteria can lead to the sudden onset of nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain,

cramps, and diarrhea. Symptoms generally appear 30 minutes to 8 hours after consuming contaminated food and usually subside within 24 hours. People experiencing these symptoms are advised to consult a healthcare professional.

At the time this warning was issued, no cases of illness linked to the consumption of this cheese had been reported to the MAPAQ.



Outaouais
ORTHODONTICS

Your smile. Our specialty.

Dr. Brent Côté, 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!

>191220_04

www.westquebecpost.com

Guest editorial

Community Newspaper Publishers Need Fair Rates and Quality Service from Canada Post

Community newspaper publishers are asking the Honourable Joël Lightbound, Minister of Government Transformation, Public Works and Procurement and Québec Lieutenant, to direct Canada Post to offer publishers the same rate it offers to the country's dominant flyer printer.

Canada Post recently consolidated its stranglehold on the flyer distribution market by offering lower rates to the country's dominant flyer printer than to community newspaper publishers. Publishers have seen a sudden and significant drop in flyer revenue, which has traditionally covered the door-to-door delivery cost of the majority of the 9 million community newspapers distributed each week across Canada.

"The flyer business eroded overnight, and we had to make some very tough decisions," said Mike Power, chief executive officer of FP Newspapers, which

shuttered Community Review, a free community newspaper which served 200,000 households in Winnipeg.

"We are asking Minister Joël Lightbound, the Minister Responsible for Canada Post, to direct Canada Post to offer newspapers fair and reasonable postage rates and quality service, said Benoit Chartier, President, Hebdom Québec.

"Our flyer volumes have been cut by about 80 per cent, and all that volume has shifted over to Canada Post, which is an immediate existential threat to many community newspapers" said Duff Jamison, chief executive officer of Great West Media, which publishes newspapers in more than 40 Alberta communities and also operates a 70,000 sq. ft. printing facility.

"Canada Post is wreaking havoc on the livelihoods of newspaper carriers and publishers, while paying

out \$30.8 million in performance bonuses in the midst of incurring a \$1.57 billion loss," said Lisa Sygutek, president of the Alberta Weekly Newspapers Association.

"Canada Post enjoys a statutory monopoly but has been abusing that privilege to stamp out competition in the flyer distribution market for years," said Paul Deegan, chief executive officer of News Media Canada. "It should not be operating at cross-purposes with Department of Canadian Heritage, which has been recognized by WAN-IFRA (World Association of News Publishers) as a respected global leader in smart media policy."

-Canadian local newspaper publishers, including Lily Ryan, West Quebec Post publisher

LETTERS

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

Islamophobic graffiti in Outaouais

I am appalled by the horrific displays of Islamophobic graffiti outside of Outaouais' Islamic Center.

The reoccurrence of Islamophobic incidents in our region is deeply troubling and demands more than momentary expressions of concern. This is not an isolated issue or a one-time occurrence. Repeated acts of anti-Muslim hatred and intimidation have reinforced a pattern that leaves many members of the Muslim community feeling vulnerable and questioning whether they can participate in public life free from fear or prejudice. Each incident sends a message not only to those directly affected, but to an entire community that their safety and belonging may be conditional.

Every act of Islamophobia must be recognized as an assault on the very principles that sustain a free and democratic society: equality, freedom of religion, human dignity, and mutual respect. When any member of our community is targeted because of their identity or beliefs, the harm extends

beyond those directly affected; it diminishes us all and undermines the inclusive society we aspire to keep on building.

Hull-Aylmer has long been home to people of diverse faiths, cultures, and backgrounds, including a vibrant Muslim community that contributes to every aspect of civic life. Muslims are also educators, healthcare workers, entrepreneurs, students, public servants, volunteers, neighbors, and community leaders.

They deserve to live, work, worship, and raise their families without being subjected to suspicion, hostility, or hate because of their faith or perceived identity. Their rights and dignity are not negotiable, nor should they depend on the public response after each new incident.

Competent authorities have my full support.

**Greg Fergus,
Member of Parliament
for Hull-Aylmer**

Elections and healthcare

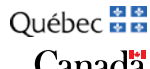
With the Quebec elections approaching, the stakes are high for the Outaouais region. In the critical area of healthcare alone, the situation appears more serious than ever following many years of acute difficulties. According to data from the CISS, around 122,350 people do not have a designated GP – one of the highest rates in Quebec. The 'Guichet d'accès à la première ligne' system is not solving the problems for our community. A&E departments are overwhelmed, whilst there is a severe shortage of healthcare professionals. In the case of a friend, with all the costs that this entails, a family member has had to travel to Montreal

to undergo tests and treatment, as the radiotherapy specialist here has left and has still not been replaced. How many relatives, friends and fellow citizens have seen their health compromised because of our lack of services? All of this is completely unacceptable for a region with 428,751 residents. It's quite clear that we feel neglected compared to Montreal and Quebec City, but Quebec includes all of us here too! I would say to all the leaders of political parties: we are already well aware of our problems; we don't want fine words and promises, we want real solutions.

**P. Trottier
Aylmer**

To see more of the *Post*, go to
westquebecpost.com

West Quebec Post
HULL • CHELSEA • AYLMER • BUCKINGHAM • LUSKVILLE • WAKEFIELD • PONTIAC



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

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, Reuel S. Amdur, Carl Hager, Greg Newing, Jude Osmond, Grace Richards, Drazen Seslija

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

**Subscriptions
\$33,95 (+ taxes)**

Patrick Ryan Remembered



Paddy Ryan (VR)

PHOTO: COURTESY OF TIM RYAN

On July 17, the Cultural Association of Mulgrave-Derry sponsored a summer version of St. Patrick's Day at the Long Lake Pavilion. It was a creative way of bringing the community together to share their heritage in a fun-filled closing of a warm summer afternoon. Michael and Shirley Kane were at their booth where anyone could sign up and receive a membership. They, and others on the executive committee of the cultural association, transformed the place into a green St. Patrick's afternoon of the 17th that put smiles on the faces of all who attended. And ... you didn't have to be Irish to live the experience.

What I write today and in my next column is related to a laminated page of the *West Quebec Post* dated March 17, 1979. That story, titled *Mrs. Ruth Dunnigan—Six Generations of Irish in Mayo*, was written by Patrick Ryan. You'll be reading excerpts from what he wrote in these two columns. First, however, a few words about Patrick Ryan, whose son Tim was at the St. Patrick's celebration on July 17th. Tim kindly contributed the photo of his late father that is included here.

The name Patrick Ryan evokes fond memories from Buckingham and area residents who had the pleasure of knowing him. He was born January 17, 1927, in Quinneville, Quebec to Mary Gahagan and Dennis Ryan, a blacksmith. His mother passed away shortly after his birth, and he and his sister Nora briefly lived with their uncle Thomas Ryan and his sister Elizabeth (Lizzie) Ryan on the Ryan farm on Rang 7 in Lochaber Township, just north of Thurso. Shortly thereafter, they both moved to Buckingham to live with their Uncle George and Aunt Helen



Paddy Ryan and his sister Nora, 1934 (VR)

PHOTO: COURTESY OF DAN SOMERS

who lived at the corner of Church and James Streets.

That residence, coincidentally, became the office of the *West Quebec Post* when it relocated from its Main Street venue as the *Buckingham Post*.

Patrick was one of the first four English-speaking students to graduate from St. Michael's College in Buckingham. He continued his studies at St. Patrick's College in Ottawa where he graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce degree. For 55 years, he was a General Insurance Broker with Manufacturers Life. As a community leader, he was a historian, founder of the 2nd Buckingham Boy Scout Troop and highly respected citizen of the town. Two former scouts, Lawrence Raby and Eric McLean, followed in his footsteps as insurance brokers.

Patrick Ryan wrote a comprehensive History of Buckingham from its inception to 1990. On the occasion of Buckingham's Centennial celebrations, the Historical Society of Gatineau convened a general meeting to take place at the town hall in Buckingham. Patrick was the main speaker at the meeting. He was thanked by Bob Phillips, who made a plea for the formation of a historical society in Buckingham. Today, we can visit that museum of Buckingham's history at its central location on Avenue de Buckingham.

Bob Phillips became the publisher of the *West Quebec Post* prior to its purchase by Fred Ryan (unrelated) and subsequently Lily Ryan and Sophie Ryan (also unrelated) today.

(To be continued in next issue)



AI and Bio-weapons

by **Gwynne DYER**

AUTHOR, HISTORIAN & INDEPENDENT JOURNALIST

'Artificial intelligence' based on Large Language Models is shaping up to be the most efficient destroyer of value since the South Sea Bubble. After the Crash, some specific functions of AI will eventually turn out to be genuinely revenue-generating, and a lot of jobs will duly disappear. But the biggest winner (and potentially biggest loser) is medical science.

Dr Brian Hie, a chemical engineer at Stanford University in California, has just revealed that his team has made the first viruses designed by artificial intelligence. They are 'bacteriophages', viruses that only infect bacteria and are widely used to treat people with infections that resist other treatments.

However, natural bacteriophages sometimes fail, so Dr Hie used generative AI to design new ones that might do the job. The AI generated thousands of designs for new genomes that more or less fit the bill, and he chose around 300 of them to build in the lab. It's hard work, not magic, but he ended up with sixteen 'novel' bacteriophages that might work.

He applied them to petri dishes containing two harmful strains of *E. coli*, a common bacteria that lives in the human gut, and they killed the bacteria off. It's still early days, but if it is truly becoming possible to tailor-make bacteriophages that target specific bacteria, then we may be getting a major new weapon in the struggle against antibiotic resistance.

That problem is growing rapidly as the overuse of antibiotic medicines gives bacteria endless opportunities to evolve into new, more antibiotic-resistant forms. The Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation estimates that 1.34 million Americans will be dying each year from antibiotic-resistant diseases by 2050 (up from half a million now).

The ability to design genomes for unique bacteriophages that target specific diseases is indisputably a Good Thing for health care, but it is not necessarily a great thing for the world at large. "Although this is promising for life sciences application," wrote Prof. Tom Inglesby of Johns Hopkins University, "it also raises urgent biosafety and biosecurity questions."

"The ability to compose viral genomes now exists; the governance to safely steer it does not....Such genomes might encode new pathogens that cannot be contained by existing countermeasures." Probably nothing as bad as the Black Plague or even Covid, but who knows?

There are no mad scientists in this story.

Not only did the scientists working on this project follow all the existing protocols; they bent over backwards to ensure that what they were doing was safe. The training of their AI deliberately did not include the code for any viruses that can infect human beings.

They have not created 'Life' – viruses are not alive – although one day they might be able to synthesize a bacteria (which is alive) if they continue on the road they are following. However, they have already created a new field of biology that goes beyond the natural world. You could call it 'synthetic biology' – and the sky's the limit.

The downside of this triumph is the fact that everybody working in the field, and perhaps already some people with less admirable ambitions, knows that it is now possible, at least in principle, to design new viruses that will do almost anything the designer wants. The cat is out of the bag, and there is no way to stuff it back in.

Science at the sharp end is often like this, with great potential for good and considerable potential for evil. It's people who decide how new scientific breakthroughs will be used, and that's what human beings are like. They are also slow to respond to new risks until some major disaster persuades them that they should take the danger seriously.

The biomedical and allied trades are currently having a golden age of discovery, and the 'ability to compose viral genomes' is only one of several scientific domains in which great advances are accompanied by high risk. The security in the labs is usually very good; the wider dissemination of sensitive information is not well controlled.

Synthetic biology will doubtless save a great many lives, but it will also make possible a whole new suite of 'low probability, high impact' events. A really bad global pandemic, created with malice aforethought, could be just as destructive as a medium-sized nuclear war. Moreover, it would take a lot fewer people to get a pandemic going.

Scientists are diligently applying the usual biosafety rules to this new biotechnology, but it's still not enough. Stricter rules and closer supervision are needed, even if necessary at the cost of slower progress in the new technology.

Treat it like they treated the new nuclear technology in the 1940s, because the consequences of misusing it could be just as serious.

Expanded English mental health services keep Connexions running in the Outaouais



Quebec is putting \$4.5 million over three years into English language mental health services, keeping Aylmer's Connexions Resource Centre funded to serve the Outaouais, with minister Lionel Carmant framing the investment as a step toward more accessible, community rooted care. (TF)

PHOTO: TASHI FARMILLO



Tashi Farmilo
LJ/Reporter

Aylmer's Connexions Resource Centre will receive \$70,000 a year for the next three years to continue its English language mental health services across the Outaouais, part of a \$4.5 million provincial investment minister Christopher Skeete announced July 10 to expand such services across Quebec.

The funding will support 22 non-profit projects across the province, at a cost of \$1.5 million a year, aimed at building up existing mental health services and creating new ones for English speaking communities. Skeete said his government is committed to ensuring mental health care remains available and continuous for all Quebecers, calling it an important step toward better access to services, and described the projects as long-term solutions for these communities in several regions of the province.

In the Outaouais, the sole recipient

is Connexions, headquartered at 67 rue du Couvent in Aylmer. According to the Ministère des Relations internationales et de la Francophonie, Connexions serves Gatineau and the rest of the Outaouais through satellite offices in Shawville, in the Pontiac MRC, and Wakefield, in the Collines-de-l'Outaouais MRC. The organization has received continuing support under the program since the 2021-2022 fiscal year.

The funding falls under the Renforcer la vitalité des communautés d'expression anglaise du Québec program and is partly financed through the Canada-Quebec agreement supporting the federal action plan on official languages.

Lionel Carmant, the minister responsible for social services, said access to mental health services close to home makes a real difference in getting help at the right moment. Supporting organizations rooted in their communities brings services closer to the people who need them, he said, while reinforcing the public network.

The return of Musical Tuesdays celebrated with music by Nick Loyer



Nick Loyer delighted the audience with his songs on Tuesday, August 4. (DS)

PHOTO: COURTESY OF THE PLATEAU RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION



Drazen Seslija

After a start to the season marked by unpredictable weather, Musical Tuesdays finally returned to the Agora in the Plateau sector on August 4, under a bright sun. Starting at 7 pm, many spectators gathered to enjoy a free outdoor performance by singer-songwriter Nick Loyer. Comfortably seated in their chairs, they enjoyed a musical evening in a warm and inviting atmosphere.

Originally from the Outaouais region, Nick Loyer offers a world where folk sounds, rock influences, and introspective lyrics blend seamlessly. In 2025, the artist

released his first album, *Line in the Sand*, a project of original songs that explore human relationships, the passage of time, and personal experiences. On stage, he favours intimate performances where the connection with the audience and the quality of the melodies take centre stage.

This concert marked the return of Musical Tuesdays, a series of free shows presented throughout the summer at the Agora to showcase artists from the region and beyond.

With the return of warmer weather, this evening allowed the public to reconnect with this summer cultural event, which has become a must-attend for many Gatineau residents.

Nearly \$21 million to proceed with the Outaouais Regional Museum



Drazen Seslija

After decades of waiting, the Outaouais Regional Museum project has reached a major milestone. On July 17, the Minister of Culture and Communications Mathieu Lacombe announced the allocation of nearly \$21 million to proceed with this long-awaited museum in the region.

According to the Quebec government, this financial assistance reflects a commitment to further cultural development in the Outaouais region, which has been calling for increased support for its heritage institutions for several years. The funding will allow the

continued development of the Outaouais Regional Museum and its establishment on the Fonderie site in Gatineau.

The future museum will become a regional cultural hub dedicated to showcasing the history, heritage, and identity of the Outaouais.

"We committed to catching up culturally in the Outaouais region," announced Mathieu Lacombe. "Today, we are delivering on that commitment." According to the minister, the project demonstrates the mobilization of the regional community and will contribute to enriching the cultural offerings while strengthening the population's sense of belonging.

Continued on page9

Connexions Resource Centre introduces new patient navigator for Outaouais English speakers



Tashi Farmilo
LJJ Reporter

Connexions Resource Centre has named Andrea Liosatos as its new patient navigator, a role created to help English-speaking residents of the Outaouais region find their way through Quebec's health and social services system.

The announcement comes as part of an ongoing effort by the Gatineau-based nonprofit to reduce language and cultural barriers that English speakers can face when trying to access care in the province. The Patient Navigation program was developed to improve access to healthcare and support people through what can be a confusing system, particularly for those who are not fluent in French.

In her new position, Liosatos will work with patients, families and healthcare professionals across the Outaouais to help residents understand available services, prepare for appointments, complete forms, and connect with resources ranging from family doctors and mental health supports to housing assistance and caregiver programs. Connexions says the goal of the role is to reduce stress and improve communication between English-speaking patients and the healthcare system while promoting continuity of care.



Liosatos said that she wants people to feel comfortable reaching out even if they do not have a clear sense of what they need. She said her approach centres on listening without judgement and helping build a plan tailored to each person's situation, whether that means attending appointments with someone, researching resources or simply talking through options.

Connexions Resource Centre is a member organization supported financially in part by Quebec's Secrétariat aux relations avec les Québécois d'expression anglaise and the Community Health and Social Services Network, known as CHSSN, a provincial organization founded in 2000 that works to improve equitable access to health and social services for Quebec's English-speaking population.

Residents can reach Liosatos by phone at 819-557-0615 or by email at a_liosatos@centreconnexions.org. More information on the broader Patient Navigator program is available at patientnavigator.ca.

Connexions Resource Centre has hired Andrea Liosatos as its new patient navigator to help English-speaking residents of the Outaouais access and navigate Quebec's health and social services system. (TF) PHOTO: COURTESY OF ANDREA LIOSATOS CONNEXIONS FACEBOOK PAGE

The Outaouais leans hardest on government jobs, and the ground is shifting



Tashi Farmilo
LJJ Reporter

The Observatoire du développement de l'Outaouais reported that 43,740 people in the region worked in public administration in 2016, one in every five workers and more than three times the share seen across Quebec. The finding, from a study by researcher Chantale Doucet, lands as the federal government carries out its largest job cuts in years, testing the report's central warning: that leaning so heavily on Ottawa's payroll leaves the local economy exposed.

The observatory, based at the Université du Québec en Outaouais and funded by the City of Gatineau, the region's MRCs and Centraide Outaouais, said those jobs bring steady paycheques but tie the region to a single employer. Just how tied is the striking part. For every 100 public administration jobs in the region, roughly 83 are federal. Local government, meaning city halls and MRCs, provides about 12 of them, and the Quebec provincial government only about 5. That balance is unusual. In the rest of Quebec, the three levels of government carry the load much more evenly, and only about a third of public jobs are federal.

The dependence is heaviest closer to the city. In Gatineau and the neighbouring Collines-de-l'Outaouais, close to one in four working residents holds a government job. Move farther out and that drops below one in ten in the Vallée-de-la-Gatineau, Papineau and the Pontiac. The type

of job shifts too. In the rural areas, far fewer people work for Ottawa and far more work for their own town or MRC. In the Vallée-de-la-Gatineau, nearly half of all public jobs are local; in Gatineau, fewer than one in ten are.

That reliance is no longer just a warning on paper. Prime Minister Mark Carney's 2025 budget promised to shrink the federal workforce, aiming to bring it down to about 330,000 employees by 2029, and the Ottawa-Gatineau region is taking a large share of the hit. The number of federal workers living in the region fell from about 154,000 in 2025 to roughly 146,000 in 2026, a drop of around five per cent in a single year. That is close to 8,000 jobs gone locally in twelve months.

The ripple effects are already visible. In Ottawa, more than 30,000 jobs disappeared between February 2025 and February 2026, pushing unemployment up to 6.3 per cent, with a city report pointing to the fallout from the federal cuts. When thousands of well-paid workers stop spending, the shops, restaurants and services around them feel it. Business groups warn the damage could grow.

The two levels of government were already moving in opposite directions before this round of cuts. Quebec provincial jobs have been shrinking in the region since 2000, and provincial belt-tightening starting in 2014 made it worse; by 2019, the Outaouais held fewer than 1,000 provincial jobs, near the bottom of Quebec's regions. Federal jobs went the other way for most of the decade.

After Ottawa cut more than 9,000 positions in the capital region between 2011 and 2014, hiring picked up again from 2017 on, reaching a peak of 121,230 in 2019 before the current cuts reversed the trend.

Losing these jobs stings more because of what they pay. They tend to require more schooling and offer higher, steadier wages than most, so each one puts more money back into the local economy than an average job would. The workers now being pushed into the job market come largely from policy, purchasing and program management roles.

For all the stability the sector once offered, the report was blunt about the limits of the benefits. Ottawa has promised since the 1970s to keep one in four federal jobs on the Gatineau side of the river but has never delivered; the real figure was closer to one in five in 2014. Every federal research lab sits in Ottawa, not Gatineau. And when the government hands out supply contracts, local firms are largely shut out: between 2010 and 2015, just 4 per cent of those contracts in the capital region went to Outaouais companies, with the rest going to Ottawa.

The concern is not new. A provincial commission flagged the region's over-reliance on government as far back as 1968. Nearly six decades later, as the cuts land again, the ODO's warning that the Outaouais is left exposed to every federal spending decision reads less like a caution than a forecast.

Consignaction to open new return locations and restrict Ontario returns amid overwhelming demand in Gatineau



Tashi Farmilo
LJ Reporter

Consignaction announced on August 10 that it will open several new container return locations in Gatineau and restrict Ontario residents to a single return service, after its Consignaction+ site on Jean-Proulx Street drew traffic far beyond its operational capacity.

The move responds to a frustration many Gatineau residents already know first-hand: waits of 30 to 60 minutes or longer at the region's only Consignaction+ site, parking lots filled with Ontario-plated vehicles, and lineups that have at times stretched to almost half a kilometre.

That frustration was on display at 84 Jean-Proulx Street, where residents described a system they feel is being strained by cross-border traffic. Jean Delisle put the grievance plainly: the problem, he said, is that Quebecers pay the deposit on their cans while others do not. "We pay our ten cents; we pay the five cents; and they pay us back," he said, contrasting that with Ontario containers on which no deposit was ever charged. "But there, it's free." He called the volume overwhelming and said Ontario residents should return their cans within their own province.

Not everyone at the site framed it as one-sided. Orville Nitschke, who returns containers on the Ontario side too, pointed out that the flow runs both ways, since Quebecers cross the river to collect refunds on wine bottles in Ontario. "Our lineup at the beer store when returning bottles is longer too," he said. He shrugged off the friction in favour of open movement between the provinces, calling it a matter of give and take.

Both men, from opposite banks, were circling the same fault line, and it is one Quebec is set to redraw. The third and final phase of the province's deposit modernization takes effect March 1, 2027, extending the deposit to glass and multilayer carton containers between 100 millilitres and two litres, including wine and spirits bottles as well as milk and juice cartons. Beer bottles and aluminum cans already carry a deposit. The expansion, originally slated for 2025, was pushed back after repeated delays in opening new return sites, and Consignaction is required to have at least 400 locations in place by that date.

The AQRCB, which operates under the Consignaction brand, said the Jean-Proulx site has seen exceptionally high volumes since it opened, and attributed much of the surge to the region's cross-border reality with Ontario. The distinction it draws is financial: Ontario charges no deposit on non-alcoholic cans and bottles, so those containers carry nothing to reclaim in Quebec. Consignaction reiterated that only containers bought in Quebec, on which a Quebec deposit was actually paid, are eligible for reimbursement, and that claiming a refund on containers purchased elsewhere is illegal. The Quebec food retailers' association has previously described the practice in the Outaouais as resembling fraud, since it loads costs onto a program those deposits never funded.

To spread out demand, Consignaction confirmed it has obtained municipal authorizations for four new return locations, at 75 Plateau Blvd., 140 Gréber Blvd., 178 Main Street, and 1100 Montreal West Road, with three more planned for the area. The rollout is part of the gradual buildout of the return network under the modernized system, which expanded



Consignaction is opening at least four new return locations in Gatineau and restricting Ontario residents to Express Return only, after cross-border traffic overwhelmed its Consignaction+ site at 84 Jean-Proulx Street and left local residents facing lineups of up to an hour. (TF)

PHOTO: TASHI FARMILO

in March 2025 to cover all ready-to-drink plastic beverage containers from 100 millilitres to two litres.

The organization also said it will require Ontario residents seeking to recover a deposit they paid in Quebec to use the Express Return service exclusively, a change taking effect in the coming days, and reserved the right to add mechanisms to verify where containers were purchased. It is a notable shift. In earlier statements, Consignaction said existing regulations

the mismatch that draws drivers across the river in the first place. That gap is set to narrow in March 2027, when Quebec's deposit expands to wine and spirits bottles. Until then, Gatineau's return sites absorb pressure that neither the barcode system nor the current rules were built to sort out. As Nitschke put it, from the other side of the same problem: "We're all Canadians."

Xavier Lusignan Wins Bronze at Commonwealth Games



Drazen Seslija

Outaouais weightlifter Xavier Lusignan distinguished himself on the international stage by winning the bronze medal in the 110 kg category at the 2026 Commonwealth Games, held from July 23 to August 2, 2026, in Glasgow, Scotland.

This performance allowed the athlete from Mansfield-et-Pontefract in the Pontiac MRC to reach the podium at an international competition that brought together many of the Commonwealth's best weightlifters. His medal rewards years of training and confirms his place among the best Canadian representatives in his discipline. Lusignan told the Bulletin that he had hoped for a better result but remains proud of the work accomplished and his place on the podium. "It's a great accomplishment that will stay with me for the rest of my life and that I worked very hard to achieve," he explained. "I was happy to make it to the podium, but I wasn't satisfied with my performance. I knew I was capable of much more, but in competition, things don't always go as planned. Despite a slightly more challenging day, I still managed to win a bronze medal, and I'm very proud to have represented Canada on the international stage."

In a message released after the event, Excellence sportive Outaouais congratulated Lusignan and highlighted his achievement, stating, "With this accomplishment, Xavier Lusignan continues to inspire and motivate the entire



XAVIER LUSIGNAN
Haltérophilie - 110 kg

Xavier Lusignan distinguished himself once again with a place on the podium. (DS)

PHOTO: COURTESY OF
XAVIER LUSIGNAN'S TEAM

Outaouais sports community."

This result adds to Xavier Lusignan's international successes and once again showcases the talent of Outaouais athletes on the international stage.

Sex trafficking in Gatineau hides in licensed rooms, and the rules governing them were built for something else



Tashi Farmilo
LJI Reporter

Sex trafficking and the sexual exploitation of young people is a real and largely hidden problem in Gatineau. Gatineau police and their regional partners describe young people, most often girls between 12 and 16, being groomed close to home, then exploited in a shifting mix of motels, hotels, private homes and short-term rentals on both sides of the Ottawa River.

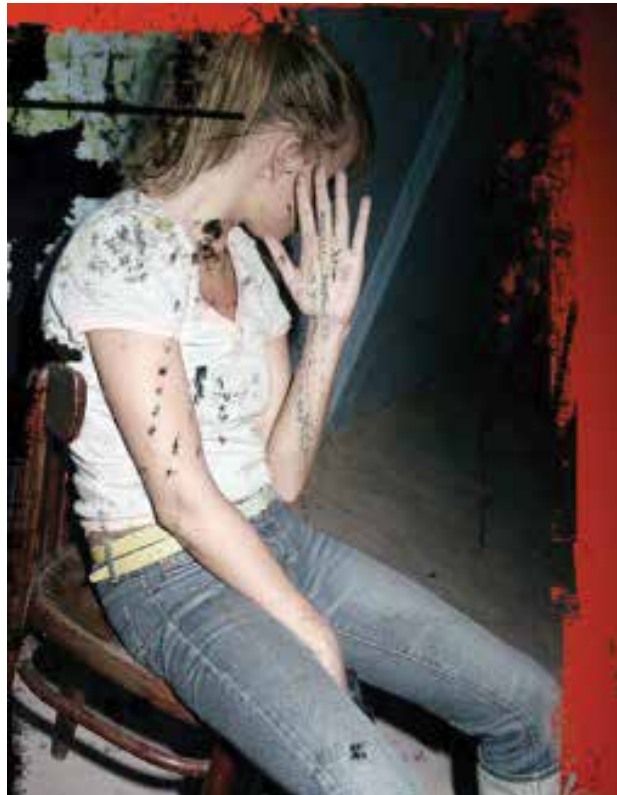
Gatineau police have opened three sexual exploitation files and two pimping files since January. The force cautions that those figures are not a measure of the problem. The number it records and the true number of cases, it says, are very different. Much of this crime never reaches authorities. Many victims stay silent out of fear, shame or mistrust, and often because the control they live under has come to feel normal. The Gatineau Police says its priority is supporting the young people involved rather than tallying cases.

The way trafficking begins rarely matches the standard image of identifiable threats. Police say recruitment often starts during a runaway episode or through patient grooming by traffickers who aim at young people that are seeking attention, affection or recognition, with money as an added lure. Much of it unfolds through apps such as Snapchat, Instagram or through contacts made where young people gather, outside schools and in malls. The control that follows can bind a young person to the relationship long before anyone notices. There is no single profile of a victim or of an exploiter, which is part of why the cases are missed.

The places where exploitation happens change constantly, and that is part of what keeps it out of view. Police describe settings that range from massage parlours and private homes to hotels, motels and short-term rentals such as Airbnb. A young person may be moved between neighbourhoods, between cities, or between provinces, and Gatineau sits on the corridor linking Montreal and Toronto that is long associated with the trade. The movement itself causes harm, pulling a young person away from familiar surroundings, deepening isolation, and making them harder to reach.

The river is central to the local pattern. Victims are often made to work in both Gatineau and Ottawa, a tactic that destabilizes young people who may not speak English and exploits the seam between two legal systems, Quebec's Youth Protection Act on one side and Ontario's child, youth and family services law on the other. Criminal law is federal, but youth protection, health and social services are run province by province, so a young person can cross a bridge in minutes while the systems meant to protect them remain separate. Those gaps, the force notes, are well understood by runaway teens and by the people who exploit them. That cross-border draw is one reason the National Capital Region has ranked among the country's leading areas for reported human trafficking, second only to Toronto over the past decade.

The short-term rental is where the local story meets a blind spot. Gatineau regulates these units closely, but for reasons unrelated to trafficking. Operators must register with Quebec's tourism corporation, the CITQ, and obtain a municipal conformity attestation before renting, and the province enforces its tourist-accommodation rules through Revenu Québec. That framework exists to address zoning, housing supply and taxes. It says nothing about exploitation. Whether trafficking has ever factored into a Gatineau rental permit being granted or revoked is absent from the



Despite strict licensing rules for hotels and short-term rentals, Gatineau police say the city's regulatory framework was never designed to detect or prevent the hidden sexual exploitation of children occurring inside these spaces. (TF)

PHOTO: COURTESY OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE FROM THEIR REPORT, DOMESTIC HUMAN TRAFFICKING FOR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION IN CANADA, OCTOBER 2013

public rules, even though the police brief lists short-term rentals among the settings where children are exploited. The paperwork that lets the city track these units for tax purposes was never built to notice who is being harmed inside them.

Police have set out what they believe the response requires, and much of it reaches past their own ranks. In the brief, the force argues that fighting exploitation depends on slowly building trust with victims, on treating investigators as companions and not only as evidence-gatherers, and on prevention that teaches young people to recognize manipulation rather than simply warning them about strangers. It points to gaps it says weaken the work: the need for stable, multi-year funding instead of year-to-year uncertainty, for specialized services for victims in the Outaouais, and for technological tools that keep pace with offenders who now use cryptocurrency and online ads. Its central argument is that local action cannot carry this alone and that a coherent provincial approach behind it is needed.

A regional response has formed around that view. The Table régionale en exploitation sexuelle de l'Outaouais brings close to 30 partners to one table, from community groups and schools to police and health and social services, and says it has trained more than 500 workers across the region to recognize the warning signs. Gatineau police assign investigators to local files and help staff a Sûreté du Québec team that targets pimping, work the force describes around four aims: protecting victims, guiding them to help, pursuing the people who profit, and seizing their proceeds. In the fall of 2025, the force submitted its brief to the province, part of the consultation behind Quebec's 2026-2029 action plan on the sexual exploitation of minors,

which commits \$90.6 million over three years.

For families, the more useful knowledge is what a warning sign looks like. No single sign is proof, and many overlap with ordinary teenage change. What matters, regional workers say, is a cluster of changes arriving at once: a new and intense relationship the young person hides or protects, a pulling away from family, friends and school, unexplained money, clothes or trips, and indications that someone else is controlling where the young person goes and who they see. How an adult responds matters as much as what they notice. Confrontation or punishment tends to push a young person closer to the person exploiting them, especially when they don't see themselves as a victim. The steadier approach, according to those who work in the field, is to stay calm, name what is observed, and make clear the young person can turn to a trusted adult without being judged.

Anyone who is concerned, or who needs help or advice, doesn't need to be certain something is wrong before reaching out. In the Outaouais, Info-Social 811 offers support and referrals any time, day or night. Youth protection can be reached directly at 819-771-6631, or toll-free at 1-800-567-6810, when a young person's safety is at risk, and Gatineau police can be reached at 819-246-0222 when a situation seems wrong, or anonymously through Échec au crime at 1-800-711-1800. A provincial helpline, Info-aide violence sexuelle, at 1-888-933-9007, assists young people, families and workers dealing with sexual violence or exploitation. Tel-jeunes, at 1-800-263-2266, and Kids Help Phone, at 1-800-668-6868 or PARLER, by text to 686868, are available to any young person who wants to talk.

Nearly \$21 million to proceed with the Outaouais Regional Museum

Continued from page 6

A WELCOMED REGIONAL MOBILIZATION

The chair of the board of directors of the Outaouais Regional Museum, Jean-Marc Blais, emphasized the importance of this announcement for a region that has long been mobilized. "This announcement is first and foremost for a region that has never stopped believing in its museum," he stated, noting that the project will become a gathering place for citizens and visitors wishing to discover the stories and heritage of the Outaouais.

Hull MNA Suzanne Tremblay described the announcement as a historic moment for the region, stating that this investment will finally provide the Outaouais with a museum institution worthy of its rich history.

Gatineau Mayor Maude Marquis-Bissonnette reiterated the city's commitment to the project since 2016. She believes this contribution from the Quebec government represents a decisive step toward the creation of a major cultural infrastructure in the city centre. "This is an opportunity to rethink how we bring culture to life in the heart of our downtown: pooling our resources, creating synergies, and bringing together key cultural players," she said.

With this announcement, the Outaouais Regional Museum takes another step toward becoming a reality, a project presented as a symbol of regional pride and a tool for transmitting the collective history of the Outaouais.

THE CLASSIFIEDS

VISA



Payment due before publication

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

CHURCHES

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

FOR RENT

\$760/MONTH ALL INCLUDED AYLMER BACHELOR shared entrance, parking available. 613-805-1303.

HALL RENTAL

AYDELU RECREATIONAL CENTRE 94 Rue du Patrimoine (Aylmer sector). Community hall rental, perfect for all kinds of occasions. For reservations, call Guy Rochon at 819-598-7663.

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

RECHERCHE PERSONNE POUR ASSEMBLER une chaise et un chariot de magasinage. Offre 65 \$. 819-968-0108.

COLLECTION OF NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS AND HYGIENE PRODUCTS FOR THE AYLMER 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!

JOB OFFERS

BILINGUAL AGENT WANTED. The SAAQ in Aylmer is looking to fill a customer service position for 26 hours per week. Excellent proficiency in French and English required. Please send your application to bureauaylmer@outlook.com.

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/>.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

À VENDRE : BATTERIE 5 PIÈCES, 3 CYMBALES, 1 Ludwig hi-hat, 2 Sabian, 1 Ludwig Snare. 450 \$ ou meilleure offre. 873-660-7785.

PERSONAL CARE

DIMA THERAPY AND BEAUTY CLINIC Body Contouring, Laser hair removal, Hydro Facial. Located at 36 Court Street, Gatineau. 438-985-2911.

MAKE YOUR AD POP IN COLOUR!

SERVICES

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

I OFFER YOU MY BEST HOUSEKEEPING SERVICES. If interested, don't hesitate to contact me. Yisell: 819 319-5480 or yisellkeyla@gmail.com

SERVICES

R É P A R A T I O N MOUSTIQUAIRE PORTE-PATIO Moustiquaire déchirée? Réservez avant la fin de l'été; l'horaire se remplit vite. 819-801-4448.



#NewsMatters



BECAUSE WE HAVE YOUR ACTIVITIES AT HEART COMMUNITY EVENTS

AYLMER 500 – BUILD IT. RACE IT. CELEBRATE IT! Friday, August 21, and Saturday, August 22, 2026, Free family event! Friday, August 21: 5 p.m.-9 p.m.; Saturday, August 22: 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Soapbox races begin at noon (Saturday). The highlight of the weekend takes place on Saturday when homemade soapbox cars race down rue Principale in a thrilling competition. Start Line In front of the British Hotel. Race begins at noon. Finish Line near Dozois Street. For the event, rue Principale will be closed to traffic. Throughout the weekend, enjoy family-friendly activities, entertainment and live atmosphere, local restaurants and businesses, community celebrations, and much more!

AYLMER LEGION – 59 BANCROFT STREET -August 14 at 7 p.m.: Acoustic performance on the patio by Chris Allaby. -August 21 at 7 p.m.: Acoustic performance on the patio by "thisyearsbruce". -August 22 at 1 p.m.: Euchre Tournament. -August 22 at 8 p.m.: Karaoke Party. -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.

FAMILY WEDNESDAY ON PRINCIPALE STREET – REPTILE AND AMPHIBIAN SHOW WITH LITTLE RAY'S REPTILE ZOO. Discover the fascinating world of reptiles and amphibians during an

exciting evening for the whole family! Wednesday, August 12, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Parc Commémoratif (Old Aylmer). Interactive presentations and amazing discoveries. Bring your picnic, lawn chairs, or a blanket. Free family event!

MUSIC UNDER THE TREES – MUSICAL SHOW Monday, August 17, 2026, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Commemorative Park, Old Aylmer, 121 Rue Principale, Gatineau. Join us for an evening of music with Unison Grooving Band, guaranteed to get you singing, clapping, and dancing! Bring your blanket or lawn chairs. Free family event. Come enjoy a beautiful summer evening under the trees, filled with music and good company!

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).

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/>.

First impressions

AREN'T FOOLPROOF!

Don't be fooled:
 OUR JOURNALISTS BRING YOU
THE TRUTH.

West Quebec Post

HULL • CHELSEA • AYLMEER • BUCKINGHAM • LUSKVILLE • WAKEFIELD • PONTIAC

819 684-4755
pub@bulletinaylmer.com
www.westquebecpost.com

Drowning in West Quebec

Tragic Accident at Tisonagan Lake Lodge

Carl Hager

OTTER LAKE: An accident occurring August 1 on Lac Shingwok at Tisonagan Lake Lodge took the life of thirty-one year old Cobden, Ontario resident, Cody Murphy while he was fishing with a friend. The exact cause of the accident has not been determined.

Cody leaves behind a spouse and two young children. Funeral services were held Monday, August 10 at the Fraser-Morris & Heubner Funeral Home in Cobden. Murphy was a regular customer at the lodge often coming three or four times per season to fish.

Tisonagan Lodge is celebrating its twentieth anniversary this year since Martin Leduc and Danielle

Marchand bought it in November 2006. They are dedicated outdoor enthusiasts and have made constant improvements to the accommodations, road, and boats. “We are even having an all-summer fishing tournament to mark the occasion,” Martin Leduc, co-owner of the lodge, told the Journal.

Leduc came across the accident while guiding clients fishing for lake trout. Leduc said that there were no witnesses to the accident. “It appears that neither men were wearing life jackets and the engine’s kill switch was not attached. Speculation is that the

boat suddenly veered throwing both men into the cold water of the lake. The survivor made it to shore about



23 AOÛT 2026 · AUGUST 23, 2026



Cérémonie des défunts & encan

Memorial Ceremony & Auction

Encan dès midi · Cérémonie à 14 h
Auction from noon · Ceremony at 2:00 PM

Paroisse Saint-Dominique — 23, chemin du Village, Municipalité de Pontiac
Saint-Dominique Parish — 23 Chemin du Village, Municipality of Pontiac

Repas préparé par Ouichef : sandwiches et pâtes — boisson à partir de 10 \$
Meal prepared by Ouichef: sandwiches & pasta — drinks from \$10

La Municipalité de Pontiac invite la communauté à venir partager ses idées sur la future vocation culturelle de ce bâtiment patrimonial
The Municipality of Pontiac invites the community to share their ideas on the future cultural use of this heritage building

Toute la communauté est invitée
Everyone welcome

MERCI À NOS COMMANDITAIRES · THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Pontiac

Dignité

ouichef

Suivez-nous sur Facebook
Follow us on Facebook



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

DÉPISTAGE DE LA PERTE D'AUDITION SANS FRAIS*

SCREENING HEARING TEST AT NO CHARGE*

* Valide jusqu'au 31 octobre 2026

* Valid until October 31st, 2026

Le Réseau Vos Oreilles
AUDIOPROTHÉSISTES SASSEVILLE · BOLDUC · LÉGARÉ

Pascale Bolduc
Audioprothésiste
Gatineau
520, Boul. de l'Hôpital, 2C
819 243-7773
1 800 732-5370

Mélanie Légaré
Audioprothésiste
Aylmer
181, rue Principale
819 557-1222
1 800 567-1580

Wakefield
Clinique Médicale des Collines
La Pêche
895, chemin Riverside,
bureau 200
819 557-1222

VosOreilles.com

400 feet away. Because the kill switch had not been activated, the boat kept moving away from the men, making it impossible for them to use it as a flotation device. Provincial police divers were called in to recover the body. We always urge our clients to wear flotation devices while fishing.”

“Our deepest condolences go out to the family. They were friends to us more than they were customers,” concluded Leduc.

SUPPORT LOCAL NEWS!

Farmers' markets of the Outaouais

Croquez l'Outaouais!



From one market to another





Discover the region's 17 farmers' markets.

À Shawville la famille est au coeur de la foire • The valley's most family friendly fair

3-7 Septembre • 2026 • September 3-7**Expo SHAWVILLE Fair**

VENDREDI | FRIDAY

BIG WRECK
• SUSSEX •

SAMEDI | SATURDAY

JACKSON DEAN
• THE TIMBERLINE •

DIMANCHE | SUNDAY

CHRIS JANSON
• PHIL DENAULT BAND •

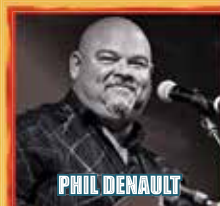
SUSSEX



THE TIMBER LINE



GAIL GAVAN



PHIL DENAULT


MINI FERME ET TOURS À PONEY | COMPÉTITIONS ÉQUESTRES | LE CONCOURS DES VOLAILLES
ÉTABLES VACHES ET BÉTAIL | EXPOSITIONS ARTISANAT ET HORTICOLE
**CONCOURS DE CAMIONS****TRUCK & TRACTOR PULL****Midway**
PRIX TOUT INCLUS
PAY ONE PRICE**DERBY DE DÉMOLITION****DEMOLITION DERBY**
PETTING FARM AND PONY RIDES | HORSE SHOWS | POULTRY DISPLAYS | DAIRY & BEEF BARNs
HOME CRAFT & HORTICULTURE DISPLAYS | AGRICULTURAL AWARENESS STATION

PAS D'ANIMAUX DOMESTIQUES | PAS DE GLACIÈRES | PAS DE LASERS | NO PETS | NO COOLERS | NO LASERS



@ShawvilleFair

WWW.SHAWVILLEFAIR.CA

**Jeudi 3 Septembre**
Thursday, September 3

16h/4pm Ouverture des portes/Entrance gates open
17h/5pm Ouverture des manèges/
Beauce Carnaval midway open/
17h/5pm Ouverture des exposition/Exhibits open
18h/6pm Le bar ouvre/Beer Tent open
19h/7pm Ouverture officielle/Official opening
19h/7pm Tir de camions & tracteurs/Truck & Tractor Pull
21h/9pm Fermeture des expositions/Exhibits close
22h/10pm Fermeture des concessions intérieures
Indoor Concessions Close/ Exhibits close
22h30/10:30pm Fermeture des portes/Entrance gates close
23h/11pm Fermeture des manèges/Midway closes
00h30/12:30am Fermeture du bar/Beer Tent Closes

Vendredi 4 Septembre
Friday, September 4

9h/9am Ouverture des portes/Entrance gates open
10h/10am Ouverture des exposition/Exhibits open
11h/11am Division des vaches laitières - Holstein, Jersey/Dairy Cattle Show
Midi/12noon Ouverture des manèges/Beauce Carnaval midway open
Midi/12noon Le bar ouvre/Beer Tent open
18h/6pm Concours des chevaux de trait attelés/Horse Show (Arena)
19h30/7:30pm SUSSEX
21h/9pm BIG WRECK
22h30/10:30pm SUSSEX - sous la tente - Beer Tent
21h/9pm Fermeture des expositions/Exhibits close
22h/10pm Fermeture des concessions intérieures et des différents expositions/
Indoor Concessions Close/ Exhibits close/
22h30/10:30pm Fermeture des portes/Entrance gates close
23h/11pm Fermeture des manèges/Midway closes
00h30/12:30am Fermeture du bar/Beer Tent Closes

Samedi 5 Septembre
Saturday, September 5

8h30/8:30am Ouverture des portes/Entrance gates open
9h/9am Marché agneau-chèvre 4-H/4-H Lamb-Goat Market
Concours du club des 4-H-Brebis Agneaux/Chèvre, Lapin/
4-H Regional Club Show - Ewe Lambs/Goat, Rabbit
9h/9am Concours de chevaux - Classes en ligne/Horse Show - Line Classes
10h/10am Ouverture des exposition/Exhibits open
Midi/12noon Ouverture des manèges/Beauce Carnaval midway open
Midi/12noon Le bar ouvre/Beer tent open
12h30/12:30pm Concours des boeufs pour les peewee/Beef Pee Wee Show
Concours des boeufs/Beef Cattle Show (Arena)
13h/1pm Concours de chevaux lourds, de chevaux commerciaux et de
chevaux miniatures/Heavy Horse, Commercial and Mini Horse Show
LARRY et ARNOLD - sous la tente - Beer Tent
14h/2pm THE TIMBERLINE
19h30/7:30pm JACKSON DEAN
21h/9:00pm THE TIMBERLINE - sous la tente- Beer Tent
22h30/10:30 pm Fermeture des expositions/Exhibits close
21h/9pm Fermeture des concessions intérieures/
Indoor Concessions Close/Exhibits close
22h30/10:30pm Fermeture des portes/Entrance gates close
23h/11pm Fermeture des manèges/Midway closes
00h30/12:30am Fermeture du bar/Beer Tent Closes

Dimanche 6 Septembre
Sunday, September 6

8:30am/8h30 Entrance gates open/Ouverture des portes
9am/9h 4-H Market Steer/Bouillon de marché 4-H
9am/9h 4-H Regional Club Show Dairy & Beef/
Club Régional des 4-H Spectacle Laitier et Boeuf
10am/10h Exhibits open/Ouverture des exposition
11am/11h Horse Pull/Tir des chevaux
11:30am/11h30 Sheep Show Open/Moutons
12noon/midi Beauce Carnaval midway open/Ouverture des manèges
1pm/13h Beer Tent open/Le bar ouvre
1:30pm/1h30 Gymkhana Horse Show (Arena)/Gymkhana Équestre
2:30pm/14h30 GAIL GAVAN & FRIENDS OF THE PONTIAC - Beer Tent - sous la tente
6:30pm/18h30 4-H Market Steer and Lamb-Goat Auction/Encan des animaux de
boucherie, bouillons et agneaux
7:30pm/19h30 PHIL DENAULT BAND/Groupe PHIL DENAULT
9pm/21h CHRIS JANSON
10:30pm/22h30 PHIL DENAULT BAND (Beer Tent)/ Groupe PHIL DENAULT sous la tente
9pm/21h Exhibits close/Fermeture des expositions
10pm/22h Indoor Concessions Close/Exhibits close/
Fermeture des concessions intérieures
10:30pm/22h30 Entrance gates close/Fermeture des portes
11pm/23h Midway closes/Fermeture des manèges
12:30am/00h30 Beer Tent Closes/Fermeture du bar

Lundi 7 Septembre
Monday, September 7

8am/8h Entrance gates open/Ouverture des portes
9:30am/9h30 Pontiac Firemen Challenge/ Défi des pompiers du Pontiac
11am/11h Exhibits open/Ouverture des exposition
12noon/12h Classic Car and Bike Show/concours de
voitures et motos antiques et classiques.
12noon/12h Demo Derby/ Derby de démolition
12noon/midi Beauce Carnaval midway open/Ouverture des manèges
12noon/midi Beer tent open/Ouverture du bar
JUKEBOX Beer Tent/JUKEBOX sous la tente
2pm/14h Exhibits close/Fermeture des expositions
4pm/16h Midway closes/Fermeture des manèges
4pm/16h Entrance gates close/ Fermeture des portes
5pm/17h Beer Tent Closes/Fermeture du bar

Weekend Activities/
Activités offertes à tous les jours

- Pay-One-Price Admission/Billet tout inclut
- Agricultural Awareness zone/Sensibilisation à l'agriculture
- Family Entertainment throughout the Day/Spectacles pour toute la famille
- The Canine Circus
- Dr. Von Houligans Family Extravaganza
- Dan the One Man Band
- Magic Extravaganza
- Comedy Hypnotist & Mentalist - Fernandez
- GREAT CANADIAN LUMBERJACKS SHOW
- Crafts & Horticulture Displays/Expositions d'artisanat et de produits horticoles
- Small Animal Barn/Grange des petits animaux
- Fair Food and Beverage Concessions/Foire alimentaire
- Petting Farm/Mini-ferme
- Free Pony Rides Compliments of the Pontiac Agricultural Society/
Tours de poney gratuits offerts par Société d'agriculture du Pontiac
- BEAUCE CARNIVAL MIDWAY/ MANÈGES
- Vendors and Kiosks/Kiosques des Marchands
- Pontiac Museum open daily/Le musée Pontiac est ouvert tous les jours
- Beef Breed Display and Educational Tent
Exposition des races bovines et tente éducative