

Along
the way

India:
Cockroach Uprising

1

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Artificial Intelligence upgrade

West Quebec home care company receives federal funding



West Quebec home care company Aidexpress is receiving a \$500,000 federal repayable contribution to add artificial intelligence to its platform, which it says will match Outaouais seniors with home care workers more quickly and flag those most in need of help. (TF)

PHOTO: TASHI FARMILO



Tashi Farmilo
LJ Reporter

Artificial intelligence will soon help match Outaouais seniors with home care workers, after Gatineau company Aidexpress received a \$500,000 federal repayable

contribution to build the technology into its service platform. Pontiac–Kitigan Zibi MP Sophie Chatel visited the company on October 16 to highlight the funding, which also helps Aidexpress expand into other provinces.

A second company, software developer

Bloks, is receiving \$300,000 to sell its AI-based customer relationship management software abroad and to add new features. Both contributions come from the Regional Artificial Intelligence Initiative, which Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions manages in the province to help businesses create and adopt AI tools.

Chatel acknowledged that AI carries risks and said Canada is working with

international partners, including Europe, on safety and regulation. “We can’t avoid it. We have to make use of it,” she said in French.

She said Aidexpress and Bloks show “that we have the talent here in the Outaouais, in our region, and the ambition to become leaders in this sector, while ensuring safety and confidentiality, because in home care services, that’s quite important.”

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Hadley and Philemon Wright relaunch their sports programs



Drazen Seslija

Families interested in competitive sports were invited to learn about the opportunities available to student-

athletes during an information evening on Wednesday, October 14, 2026, at Hadley Junior High School and Philemon Wright High School in the Hull sector of Gatineau.

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Lawyers offer free legal guidance as Outaouais homelessness climbs



Tashi Farmilo
LJJ Reporter

Gatineau lawyers to offer free legal guidance as Outaouais homelessness climbs

Free legal information on housing and eviction was offered in Gatineau on October 22, when lawyers from the Barreau de l'Outaouais opened the municipal court to the public, an outreach prompted by polling that found most Quebecers would not know where to send a friend or relative at risk of losing a home.

In a Léger survey conducted for the Barreau du Québec, 23 per cent of respondents said they knew someone in their circle who had been at risk in recent years of losing housing or falling into homelessness. Sixty-three per cent said they could not name a resource to direct that person to. Seventy per cent said a free conversation with a lawyer would help, rising to 82 per cent among those who already knew someone at risk.

The region had reason to pay attention. Preliminary results from Quebec's 2025 count, published by the Ministry of Health and Social Services, tallied 866 people in visible homelessness in the Outaouais, up from 706 in 2022 and 146 in 2018. At 200.7



Lawyers led by Christian Tanguay, bâtonnier of the Barreau de l'Outaouais, will open Gatineau's municipal court to the public on October 22 for free information on tenant rights and homelessness, after a Barreau du Québec poll found 63 per cent of Quebecers would not know where to send someone at risk of losing their home. (TF)
PHOTO: COURTESY OF THE CITY OF GATINEAU

per 100,000 residents, the rate trailed only Montreal and Abitibi-Témiscamingue. The count covered a single night and excluded people couch surfing or otherwise hidden, so the ministry described it as an undercount.

Rent was the pressure point. Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation figures released in December 2025 put the average rent in the Gatineau area at \$1,420 a month, the highest among Quebec's metropolitan regions and 6.8 per cent above a year earlier. Vacancy rose to 3.8 per cent, but the agency found roughly 10 per cent of newly built units sitting empty while the cheapest apartments remained close to fully occupied.

"Having access to justice means understanding your rights and knowing who to turn to," said Christian Tanguay, bâtonnier of the Barreau de l'Outaouais, in a statement. "On October 22, we are opening the doors of justice to everyone in the Outaouais, from people living on the street to young people about to sign their first lease."

The open house covered how municipal justice works and the diversion options

available locally, including the justice and community intervention program known as PAJIC, which since 2021 has allowed Gatineau residents in precarious situations to have tickets cancelled or judicial debts erased in exchange for steps toward reintegration.

The event belonged to the third Marathon juridique, which ran provincially from October 22 to 24 with more than 20 free activities on tenant rights and the law as it applies to homelessness. The Barreau du Québec said the campaign stemmed from its action plans on housing and homelessness, which include improving how residents navigate the Tribunal administratif du logement.

This year's spokespeople were Françoise David, a social justice activist and former member of the National Assembly, and Bernard St-Jacques, former director of Clinique Droits Devant in Montreal. "The scale of homelessness has its roots in a set of crises that come down to very concrete realities: a job loss, an eviction notice, an illness," St-Jacques said. "Knowing your rights at the right moment can keep you from tumbling into an endless spiral."

Flu vaccination: Outaouais residents urged to prepare for the winter season



Drazen Seslija

As winter knocks on our doors and flu season approaches in Quebec, the annual flu shot remains an important way to reduce the risk of complications. Outaouais residents can visit local pharmacies and vaccination sites to get their vaccine.

In Quebec, eligible individuals can receive the vaccine for free, while others can contact a pharmacy or medical clinic for information on costs and vaccination procedures.

Outaouais residents can schedule an appointment starting October 13 to receive vaccines against the flu, COVID-19, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV). Flu and COVID-19 vaccines are free for people aged 65 and older, pregnant women, and immunocompromised individuals. The RSV vaccine is offered free of charge to people aged 75 and older. Appointments can be made online at Clic Santé or by phone at 819776-2920 or 1-844-776-6116, toll-free. For more details on the campaign, visit <https://bit.ly/VacciVirus>.

PEOPLE ELIGIBLE FOR FREE VACCINATION:

- People aged 65 and older.
- People aged 6 months and older who are immunocompromised, on dialysis, or living with a chronic illness.
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- Residents of any age in long-term care facilities (CHSLD), residential care facilities for seniors (RI-SAPA), and retirement homes (RPA), or living in other group settings with a high proportion of older and vulnerable individuals.
- Healthcare workers who could transmit the flu to people at high risk of complications.
- People living in the same household as those in high-risk groups for complications and those who care for them at home (informal caregivers).
- Travelers who are immunocompromised, on dialysis, or living with a chronic illness and who will be traveling to a region where influenza viruses are circulating.

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Des Collines and Gatineau job fair this November



Tashi Farmilo
LJJ Reporter

A job and continuing education fair will be held in Gatineau for the first time on November 12, when L'Événement Carrières and the Chambre de commerce de Gatineau et des Collines bring employers, training institutions and job seekers together at the Palais des congrès de Gatineau, at 50 Maisonneuve Blvd. The fair runs from 10 am to 5 pm, admission is free and parking is paid.

The Journée de l'emploi et de la formation continue is a partnership between the Montreal-based fair organizer, part of Groupe Context, and the chamber, which says the event answers needs its members have raised about labour supply, requalification and skills development. The floor is divided into three zones: one for employers hiring now, one for colleges, universities and vocational training centres pitching their programs, and one for employment and integration agencies offering career transition help. Businesses are being asked to reserve a booth through L'Événement Carrières. Registration is not required but is encouraged.



Gatineau hosts its first Journée de l'emploi et de la formation continue on November 12 at the Palais des congrès, a free one-day fair pairing employers, training institutions and employment agencies with job seekers, which Chambre de commerce de Gatineau et des Collines executive director Etienne Fredette calls a concrete way to support the economic vitality of the Outaouais. (TF)

PHOTO: TASHI FARMILO

"The Journée de l'emploi et de la formation continue is a concrete opportunity to bring together employers, job seekers and training institutions, to encourage productive meetings and to support the economic vitality of the Outaouais," Etienne Fredette, the chamber's executive director, said in a statement translated from French.

Statistics Canada reported that the Ottawa-Gatineau unemployment rate climbed to 7.0 per cent in September from 6.7 per cent in August, with the local economy losing 8,300 jobs that month. The Institut de la statistique du Québec put Outaouais employment at about 211,700 in September on a three-month moving average, down from an annual average of 212,500 in 2025, with the regional jobless rate at 5.9 per cent.

Patrick Rouillard, executive director of L'Événement Carrières, said the partnership is meant to draw more of the region's employers onto the floor. "The more companies are present, the greater the number of jobs put in front of the population of the Outaouais," he said. "We are happy to be able to offer the region this way of recruiting face to face, which is very certainly the most effective way to recruit."

MOBI-O celebrates 15 years of commitment to sustainable mobility



Drazen Seslija

The Centre d'expertise en mobilité de l'Outaouais et de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue (MOBIO) held its 16th annual general meeting (AGM) on October 8, 2026, a gathering that allowed the organization to present a review of its activities and unveil its priorities for the coming year, among other things. The event was particularly significant, as the organization is celebrating its 15th anniversary this year.

In the presence of its members, MOBI-O provided an update on the many projects and initiatives completed over the past year—such as, most recently, the local transportation plan for the village of Saint-André-Avellin, the "school street" project on rue Allaire in Gatineau, and many others—while presenting its action plan for the coming months.

Since its inception, MOBI-O has supported communities and local stakeholders in the transition toward more sustainable modes of transportation, such as walking, biking, and public transit, among others. Its work aims, in particular, to encourage simpler lifestyles, promote responsible travel, and contribute to the development of welcoming, accessible, and inclusive living environments.

The nonprofit organization wishes to reflect on the initiatives undertaken over the years and the efforts made



After 15 years of activity, the organization is kicking off a new year by taking stock of its achievements and setting out directions for continuing its work toward more sustainable mobility.

PHOTO: MOBI-O

to advance mobility practices. It also intends to continue its commitment to solutions tailored to the needs of communities and their residents.

MOBI-O thanked its members for their participation in the AGM and for their contribution to fulfilling its mission.

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Swift Change in Government



Ian Barrett

The results of the provincial elections have settled in.

On the one hand, the Parti Québécois made the most spectacular comeback in provincial history. Four years ago, they won only three seats, and didn't even qualify as an official parliamentary party. Now, with 59 seats, they are set to govern, albeit in a minority. With 28% of the vote, they have the smallest popular mandate in the history of the province, with an even slimmer share than Pauline Marois in 2012 (31.9%).

On the other hand, we witnessed the most complete political wipe-out in the history of the country, as the CAQ went

from a thumping majority of 90 seats to none at all. Only the Conservative Party in the provinces of PEI and New Brunswick managed to do the same, in 1935 and 1987 respectively. Why exactly this happened to the CAQ isn't completely clear. Under Legault, the party had a bumpy ride during the years of COVID in 2020 and 2021, where Québec had the highest death rates in Canada by far, and among the highest in the world. And this despite some of the harshest measures, such as night time curfews where it was generally illegal to leave your home at night. Still, in the elections of 2022 they increased their majority. The last four years saw its share of scandals, but none of them were eye popping. The most commonly cited are Northvolt and SAAQclac. The budgetary situation

worsened substantially as interest rates rose, and a government that in its first term had been more accustomed to spreading the largesse inherited from the previous Liberal administration found itself instead needing to make dramatic cuts. It's hard to blame Christine Fréchette alone for the loss, as François Legault had been pushed out beforehand due to his deep unpopularity. Instead, the most likely reason was that voters simply wanted change.

The voter base that moved away from the CAQ tends to be fairly mobile. On the provincial level, they were largely responsible for the collapse of the PQ in 2018 and 2022, abandoning them for the CAQ. On the federal level, they also shifted in quick order away from the Bloc in 2011 in favour of the NDP, leaving the former

with just four seats before returning home en masse in 2019. Now at the provincial level they've split between the PQ and the Conservative Party of Quebec.

With 99 new deputies in place to just 28 that are returning, it's hard to say what to expect from this legislature. The PQ and Québec Solidaire together hold a majority of seats, and both are eager to call a referendum. So they may keep the current government going for long enough to hold one. The Liberals are likely the party that will be the most keen for another campaign, as they are now the only natural alternative to the PQ in terms of governing, and they have the money to fund another campaign soon. The Conservatives have momentum, but will need time to raise more funds.

LETTERS

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

Task Force calls for better relationship with English community

The Task Force on Linguistic Policy is calling on Premier Designate Paul St-Pierre Plamondon to provide real substance to his promise to be "the Premier of all Quebecers."

I congratulated the leader of the Parti Québécois for his victory, while cautioning him to accept his minority government is not a mandate to plunge Quebec into instability. The support of 2 million voters for two federalist parties is a sign Quebecers do not want a referendum at this time.

We hope this government will take a more reasonable and compassionate approach than its predecessor, allowing exceptions to discriminatory language laws where circumstances warrant.

Given that Mr. St-Pierre Plamondon himself earned his post-secondary degrees in English, we also hope he will reconsider any effort to extend the restrictions of Bill 101 to CEGEPs and will not continue policies that undermine Quebec's English-language universities.

The Task Force is calling on the new government to:

- Modify the most discriminatory sections of Bill 96, which are the source of ten court challenges
- Not apply Bill 101 to English CEGEPs as that would decimate them
- Call a meeting with leaders of the English speaking community including the Task Force, EMSB, TALQ and other English institutions.

In anticipation of the Supreme Court ruling on the Notwithstanding Clause and a Superior Court hearing for their lawsuit against Bill 96 on behalf of individuals, the Task Force will continue to work day by day to challenge Bill 96, and ensure elected officials respect the 1.6 million English speaking Quebecers.

Andrew Caddell,
President
Task Force on
Linguistic Policy

World Homeless Day on October 10: Seeing Beyond the Encampments

We often look at an encampment and see canvas, nylon, and cold wooden pallets. We see tarps pulled tight against the wind and smoke rising from temporary fires. But if we stop there, we miss the truth entirely.

An encampment is not just a collection of tents. It is a community of human beings—mothers, sons, veterans, artists, tradespeople, and neighbours—who are surviving in the cold air. Every tent represents a person who woke up today facing challenges most of us can barely comprehend, yet who continues to hold on.

Let's talk today about people to be supported, dignity to be restored, and

solutions that lead all the way home. We met at Gatineau's encampment Saturday, October 10 to provide some mental sunshine and some items of warmth to our neighbours who need it. We came together as citizens, NGOs, service clubs, places of worship, places of friendship to lead the change we need to see in our neighborhood. Our community, our province, should join the chorus to sing "Homelessness Resolved."

At least for one day, heartwarmers united! Now we need can bring this to our daily lives.

Sylvain Henry
Gatineau

Thoughts on election results

Quebecers have just turfed out the CAQ government. Although it brought in a number of anti-English laws during its nine year governance as desired by its nationalist base, what is clear is that the CAQ failed to deliver on health care needs, housing and food affordability, which are the real priorities of Quebecers.

As far as a vote on separation is concerned, the new premier as head of the separatist PQ has pushed a possible referendum vote until after the Trump presidency. The Quebec Solidaire, also a party looking for an independent Quebec, is an unlikely partner to the PQ. Quebec Solidaire wants to hold a four year consultation if it became the government on what an independent Quebec

would look like. Its view of services, programs and values would highly differentiate it from the right wing policies of the current PQ. For example QS would be much more accommodating of minorities and immigrants. It would aim to have rent control, and make major investments in public transit, healthcare and education. So it is unlikely that the QS will join the PQ for a swift referendum vote.

The people of Quebec need a government that works and delivers on their real needs, not a government squandering time, energy and money on ideological causes that chase language ghosts of the past.

Carl Hager, Aylmer

West Quebec Post

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Along the way

From cradle to grave along life's journey, our perceptions change. Whereas in our youth, we might have challenged authority, in our later years, we come to share that authority in a responsible way. We learn from others, even those who are younger than us, for they have gained insights along their journey from which we may also benefit.

We have only to observe interactions of children at play to experience joy, empathy and sharing. Would that we, who are older, could bring back that spontaneous joie de vivre, that lifting up of those who have fallen, that caring about our fellow travellers, as children do at play.

Along life's journey, there are many celebrations. Usually, the word 'celebrate' conjures up images of having a wonderful time, of laughter and 'living it up.' There is much to celebrate on the journey; yet, too often, we focus on the harrowing experiences that we all must endure. Our birthdays, the celebration of the day that we took our first breath, are happier ones, or should be. As adults, we perceive our birthdays differently than when we were children. I will forever remember the birthday of one person whom I will never know.

It was on a damp morning, in the spring of this year when our paths crossed. I was in the comfort of my warm car, stopped at a left-turn light at an intersection. He was holding a plastic container and begging for spare change. As I rolled down the window and put money in the container, a broad smile spread across his weather-beaten face as he happily exclaimed, "It's my birthday today!"

Even today, I wish that I had found a place to park the car around that corner and walked back to offer him a little more money and sing Happy Birthday to him. Alas, life today is too demanding, too complex to stop for a while on our busy way to bring comfort to our fellow travellers.

One of my favourite songs, by Cat Stevens, is directed to the very young. The focus of the lyrics is on our temporal existence. What will we leave for others when we have gone?

"Oh, very young, what will you leave us this time?

You're only dancing on this earth for a short time.

And though your dreams may toss and turn you now,

They will vanish away like your daddy's best jeans

Denim blue fading up to the sky

And though you want them to last forever,

You know they never will

You know they never will

And the patches make the goodbye harder still."

As we come to the end of life's journey, there is one certainty. We want to leave happiness for those we loved along the way. We want them to bring the spirit of joy to others and to celebrate life.

To conclude, I am sharing with you this poem that I wrote:

As colours grow pale after sunset

So our footprints fade when we're gone

There'll be no bright colours at dawning

When life's dark curtains are drawn.

Spoken words, yet we will not hear them

They'll bring flowers that we will not see

For stone-cold, we won't blush as a rose does

We will not hear our own eulogy.

In silence they'll gather at gravesite

Where we're dressed up to go underground

Our time and place etched on a tombstone

Where the last of our footprints are found.

Our loved ones will gather 'round table

Where there will be one empty chair

They'll be telling the family stories

But we won't have ours to share.

You who read these words, be not sombre

Raise high a glass of good cheer

'Here's to the gift of our being

And a toast to the one who's not here.'

For he would wish smiles on your faces

Even laughter that coaxes the tears

For the footprints you've made

In their own time will fade

And be gone with the passing of years.



India: Cockroach Uprising

by Gwynne DYER

AUTHOR, HISTORIAN & INDEPENDENT JOURNALIST

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi is technically not upper caste, but he does have a high opinion of himself. "When my mother was alive, I used to believe that I was born biologically," Modi told an interviewer two years ago. "After she passed away, reflecting on all my experiences, I was convinced God had sent me."

Modi could use some help from God at this point, because his government has stumbled into a confrontation with the nation's frustrated and angry youth. Half of India's population is under 30, and although the economy is growing very fast (7% last year) it is mostly 'jobless growth' (40% graduate unemployment).

In retrospect, early 2024 was the time of 'peak Modi'. He was convinced that his Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP- Indian People's Party) would win a two-thirds majority in parliament in the upcoming election, after which he would change the constitution, put an end to the secular state, and build the Hindu-ruled religious state of his dreams.

The 290 million Indian citizens who are not Hindus – one-fifth of the population, mostly Muslim – would become second-class citizens under that new regime. The BJP never publicly admits that this is its destination, but its paramilitary mass organisation, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), is quite open about it.

There is a hierarchy of hatred, in the sense that the BJP sees Buddhism and Sikhism, rival religions that are local in origin, as less alien and threatening than Christianity and especially Islam. (Muslims are one-seventh of the entire population.) But Modi and his party have worked long and hard to paint them all as foreign and dangerous.

It was all going so well – but then the BJP didn't do at all well in the 2024 election. It needed a coalition with two small regional parties just to scrape a bare majority in the Lok Sabha (lower house of parliament.) As for changing the constitution, forget it.

The BJP's trajectory had stalled. It still had the support of the mass media (mostly bought and paid for) and probably of the older generation of Hindus. So long as non-Hindus and lower-caste Hindus kept voting against Modi's God-given project, however, it wasn't going to happen. Modi's solution was to launch the biggest gerrymandering attempt in world history.

The electoral rolls in India had always been maintained in a non-partisan way, but in 2023 Modi appointed new election commissioners who would do his bidding.

They weren't in office in time to do anything about the 2024 election, but they are certainly well placed to do his will now.

The BJP knew that its 'Hindu nationalist' supporters (the Indian version of MAGA) would be loyal to the end, but that lower-caste Hindus and religious minorities were abandoning Modi's party. You can often guess how people will vote by their family names or where they live, so Modi's strategists just started removing likely opposition voters from the electoral rolls.

There were 968 million registered voters in India a year ago, but the BJP-controlled Election Commission has been carrying out a 'Special Intensive Revision' – and it has already purged 130 million voters from the list.

It is extremely unlikely that one-sixth of all Indian voters have died or moved leaving no forwarding address in the past five years. It is, however, extremely likely that an implausibly high proportion of the missing voters are Muslims, other non-Hindus and lower-caste Hindus.

This is daylight robbery, but electoral rolls are not sexy. It took a bunch of students to drag it out into plain sight.

It began when somebody at the National Testing Agency leaked the exam papers that decide who gets into medical schools. Two million students were competing for 150,000 places, and when the scam came out and everybody had to rewrite them twelve candidates committed suicide. It was the second time the exams had to be retaken in three years.

An unemployed graduate called Abhijeep Dipke picked up on a casual remark by the Chief Justice calling people like him 'cockroaches' and set up a satirical website accusing the BJP of incompetence and corruption. He called it the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) and it took off like a rocket. Within weeks mass protests forced the Education Minister to resign.

The young founders of the CJP knew they had created a powerful political lever, and by September they realised what their next target must be: the giant gerrymander that has already delivered two big states, West Bengal and Bihar, into the hands of the BJP. (Next national elections are in 2029.)

So the CJP is now demanding the resignation of the chief of the Election Commission, Gyanesh Kumar, and most days the streets of Delhi are filled with young protesters. The BJP is not yet defeated, but it is on the defensive. Stay tuned.

Gatineau rally marks Quebec's 19th suspected femicide



Tashi Farmilo
LJ Reporter

Femicide brought participants to the corner of Gréber Boulevard and Jacques-Cartier Street on October 7. Maison d'INGRID and supporting organizations gathered beside Gatineau's Parc Mémoire d'Elles from noon to 1 pm, following the death of Monique Thibault Poirier. The 77-year-old Laval woman's death is the 19th suspected femicide in Quebec this year, according to a feminist coalition's tally.

Laval police found Poirier on September 29 in a condo tower on Jean-Béraud Avenue in the city's Chomedey district. Her partner was injured at the scene. Ronald Thibault, 78, is charged with first-degree murder.

"It was our house that launched the mobilization," said Claudia Fradette, director general of Maison d'INGRID. She explained that the gathering was not meant to be a march, a demonstration or a vigil. "It's really to show our outrage at the femicides that keep happening even today."

Participants stood with signs around the intersection. Fradette said several organizations in the region have offered their support. The group's Facebook page, STOP aux féminicides (Mobilisation Outaouais), said its members want these deaths to be seen as more than statistics and called for concrete measures to protect women.

Maison d'INGRID is working toward a shelter on land in Cantley for women and children leaving domestic violence. It takes its name from Ingrid Falaise, the Quebec actor whose memoir recounts the abusive marriage she survived.

The count comes from the Coalition féministe contre la violence envers les femmes, which keeps a public memorial listing each victim by name. The women whose lives were



Maison d'INGRID and supporting organizations gathered beside Gatineau's Parc Mémoire d'Elles on October 7 in response to the death of Monique Thibault Poirier, a 77-year-old Laval woman whose death is the 19th suspected femicide in Quebec this year. (TF)

PHOTO: TASHI FARMILO

taken are: Tadjan'ah Desir, Mary Iqiquq Tukulak, Susana Rocha Cruz, Véronic Champagne, Marie-Kate Ottawa, Sonia Maricela Gonzalez Vasquez, Danielle Lascelles, Julie Pontbriand, Katherine Alejandra Mejia Salinas, Hiba Elrhazi, Shannon Jean Hickey, Sushmita Bhaskaran, Yasamin Ataye, Leakkhena Seng, Kerline Jean, Elisabeth Qumak, Leïla Ben Salem and Monique Thibault Poirier, along with one woman whose name has not been released.

Among them is Shannon Jean Hickey, 30, who died in Gatineau in May. Hers was the region's first femicide since 2021.

Parc Mémoire d'Elles is home to a monument honouring Jeannine Boissonneault, whose body was found in Houston in 1968. Her husband, Raymond Durand, a Gatineau native, was convicted of her murder 24 years later. The park also hosts a vigil every December 6 to mark the Polytechnique massacre.

Fradette said the group intends to return to the same corner. "Following any femicide, you'll find us here," she said.

SOS violence conjugale answers calls at any hour at 1-800-363-9010. A list of Outaouais shelters is posted at agir-outaouais.ca/maisons.

Drone drop worth nearly \$48,000 intercepted outside Hull jail

Tashi Farmilo

A drone-delivered package of tobacco, narcotics and cell phones valued at \$47,850 was recovered by correctional staff outside the Hull detention facility in Gatineau on August 18, one of eight major seizures worth a combined \$581,650 that Quebec made in August as it cracks down on smuggling into its jails.

In response to the Aylmer Bulletin, Quebec's Ministry of Internal Security confirmed the parcel was retrieved before it made it past the walls. Phone accessories were also inside, though no quantities were given, nor which drugs were involved. Police, who handle any criminal investigation, have been notified. There was no word on arrests or charges.

The department says its correctional services are gaining ground. Hull's was the smallest haul of the month, with Trois-Rivières leading at \$172,850 from two finds, followed by Montreal at \$101,500.

Most major catches come from quickly retrieving airborne deliveries before they get inside, though contraband also turns up during rounds, yard inspections, admission searches of inmates and searches of premises. Officials credit the skill of staff, along with teamwork, equipment and technology.

Other measures include secured yards and windows, the gradual rollout of more advanced drone detectors, airspace regulation above detention centres, cell phone detection devices,



A drone drop of tobacco, narcotics and cell phones worth \$47,850 was seized outside the Hull detention facility in August, part of \$581,650 in major contraband seizures across Quebec's jails that month. (TF)

PHOTO: CORRECTIONNELLEMENT - PUBLIC FACEBOOK PAGE

body scanners and search stations, as well as surveillance, intervention protocols, intelligence analysis and cooperation with police.

Discipline was tightened September 28, when amendments to the regulations under the Quebec Correctional System Act took effect. Correctional officers can now file misconduct reports in a wider range of situations, including those involving items flown in, and disciplinary committees have more room to impose harsher penalties for serious offences such as bringing in a cell phone or damaging infrastructure.

Over 1,800 methamphetamine pills seized in Gatineau

The West Quebec Post Team

The Service de police de la Ville de Gatineau (SPVG) conducted a search of a trailer located on rue Atawe, in the Lac Leamy area, on October 7. The police seized more than 1,800 methamphetamine pills, approximately 5,000 contraband cigarettes, and other substances.

According to a press release issued by the SPVG on October 8, officers also seized 2.17 grams of psilocybin, approximately 200 grams of cannabis-derived products, and the trailer itself.

The operation followed an investigation into drug trafficking. A 60-year-old man, Richard Rochon, a resident of Gatineau, was arrested early in the morning of October 7.

He was taken to the Hull sector police station to appear in court later that day. He remained in custody, according to information provided by the SPVG.

The man faces charges related to drug trafficking, possession of cannabis, possession of cannabis with intent to sell, and violation of a probation order.

The SPVG urges anyone with information regarding the possession or sale of narcotics in Gatineau to contact its Info Line confidentially at 819-243-4636, option 5.

Hadley and Philemon Wright relaunch their sports programs

Continue from page 1

The event focused on the development of the Sport Studies and Sport Concentration programs, which aim to allow young people to pursue their academic studies while developing their athletic skills.

The Sport Studies program is designed for students who practice a sport intensively at the provincial, national, or international level. Under the sport concentration model, classes are primarily scheduled for the morning to free up afternoons for training. Applications are recommended by sports associations in the Outaouais region.

For the 2026-2027 school year, the schools have established partnerships with several organizations, including the Outaouais Baseball Club, Chelsea Nordiq, the Cascades Volleyball Club, Altitude Gym, the Francis Wathier Hockey Academy, and Gatineau Skateboard. Women's hockey, the Gatineau Intrépide U18 AAA team, and Beaudoin Karaté Gatineau are also on the list of announced partners.

SPORTS PROGRAM CONTACT PERSONS AND THEIR DETAILS FOR 2026-2027:

BASEBALL: Stéphane Pétronzio — 819 918-6687; Andrew — 819 893-8008.
Email: sportetudesbaseballgatineau@gmail.com

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING:
Maryse Beaulieu — 819 639-1607.
Email: sportetudeadmin@chelseanordiq.ca

VOLLEYBALL: Grégory Pilorge and Flora Sigeris — 514 222-6407. Emails: gpilorge1@gmail.com and info@volleyballcascades.com



The information evening for the Sport-Studies program at Hadley Junior High School and Philemon Wright High School took place on Wednesday and was attended by about 50 people. (DS).

PHOTO : DRAZEN SESLIJA

ROCK CLIMBING: Dung Nguyen — 819 205-0959.
Email: dnguyen@altitudegym.ca

HOCKEY: Francis Wathier — 613 795-1984.
Email: hockey.franciswathier@gmail.com

SKATEBOARDING: Jean-Philippe Roy — 819 210-1459.
Email: info@gatineauskateboard.com

WOMEN'S HOCKEY: Vincent Dunn — 343 204-8386.
Email: sefohockey@gmail.com

KARATE: Denis Beaudoin — 819 319-3365.
Email: beaudoin_sensei@yahoo.ca

GATINEAU INTRÉPIDE U18 AAA —
<https://intrepide.m18aaa.com>

During the evening, families were invited to attend program presentations, meet coaches and coordinators at information booths, and learn about registration procedures.

For the current year, students in the Sport Studies program remain integrated into regular classes. The administration's goal is to increase enrollment so that classes dedicated to student-athletes can be offered starting next school year.

The two schools share a campus located at 80 Daniel-Johnson Boulevard in the Hull sector and fall under the jurisdiction of the Western Quebec School Board. Parents wishing to obtain more information about the program can send an email to Rkane@wqsb.qc.ca.

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VosOreilles.com

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Artificial Intelligence upgrade

West Quebec home care company receives federal funding

Continued from page 1

The funding arrives as demand for home care rises with an aging population. Richard Mercier, president and chief executive of Aidexpress, said the public health network lacks the staff and beds to care for everyone who is losing autonomy, and that the shortfall is more pronounced in the Outaouais than in many other regions. Chatel pointed out that every baby boomer will be over 65 by 2031.

Aidexpress runs an online platform that works much like Uber. People who need help at home, from cleaning to personal care, submit a request, and the platform links them with a nearby worker. About 13,000 workers in Quebec and 1,100 in Ontario have signed up, Mercier said. Aidexpress checks their credentials and runs background checks, and each worker chooses the services they provide, how far they will travel and when they can work.

AI will first be used to make those matches faster, weighing what a client needs, where they live and who is available. Mercier said families seeking help today face a scattered system, with many organizations offering services and no single place to start. “The question we should be asking is why there are 14,000 people in Quebec waiting for home care,” Mercier said in French. “It’s not whether they should be served by this group or that group. They should be served.”

The company’s answer is what Mercier calls an autonomy hub. Aidexpress plans to open its platform to non-profits, small home care providers, independent workers and families, so that someone looking for help can reach all of them through one system. Sharing the platform should also keep more workers available, he said. A worker in the Pontiac who wants 30 hours a week but can only get five from Aidexpress will often quit, but could stay if other organizations offer the remaining hours.

Under the hub, a person seeking help answers a short set of questions about whether they can bathe, cook and move

around the house on their own, and whether they have fallen recently or are having trouble with memory, mood or sleep. Someone who lives alone with no support is marked as a priority. The request can go to several nearby providers at once or to the local CLSC, and a coordinator follows up if nobody responds.

Seniors in the company’s focus groups this fall said they were tired of explaining their situation from scratch to every new provider, Mercier said. The answers form a single record, which he calls a “living portrait,” that follows the person from one provider to the next. Chatel said AI could use that record to request the right services as a person’s needs change.

Aidexpress also plans to connect the platform to devices in clients’ homes. Through a partnership with Josephine Care, sensors learn a resident’s daily routine over about a month and send an alert when something is out of the ordinary, such as a much longer stay in the bathroom than usual. Mercier also described night lights with sensors that track walking speed to detect a growing risk of falling, and AI phone calls that remind clients to take their medication and can pick up signs of confusion. When a concern is detected, the next worker scheduled to visit could be asked to check on the person, or the family could be notified. “If we don’t want people going to the hospital, we have to be doing prevention before we’re doing treatment,” Mercier said.

Mercier said the company follows Quebec’s Law 25 and federal privacy rules, keeps its AI models on servers in Canada and shares a client’s information only with that client’s consent.

The hub is set to launch in the first quarter of 2027, starting in the Quebec City region with the Fondation AGES, a social geriatrics organization. In the Outaouais, Aidexpress is in talks with the CISSS de l’Outaouais about a pilot project, which could take place in the Pontiac.

Chatel said home care is a pressing issue

in the rural parts of her riding. Seniors in the MRC de Pontiac who are placed in long-term care often have to move to Gatineau, she said, leaving their homes and friends behind. Keeping them at home for even five or six more years would improve their lives and ease the strain on relatives who care for them.

“There isn’t a single non-profit that will be able to meet this. There isn’t a single private company that will be able to,” Mercier said. “But if everyone comes together and looks at who can help, we can do this work.”

For more information: aidexpress.ca

Flu vaccination: Outaouais residents urged to prepare for the winter season

Continued from page 2

WHERE CAN YOU GET VACCINATED IN THE OUTAOUAIS?

Residents can visit the Clic Santé platform to check availability and schedule an appointment based on their preferred location. Vaccinations are also available at certain community pharmacies. Residents should also check the services offered and available appointment times before traveling.

LOCATIONS OF LOCAL SERVICE POINTS (PSL) BY REGION, ACCORDING TO THE CLIC SANTÉ PLATFORM:

- Gatineau PSL: 80 avenue Gatineau (Gatineau).
- Hull PSL: 105–107 rue Crémazie (Hull).
- Aylmer PSL: CLSC LeGuerrier, 425 rue Leguerrier (Aylmer).
- Vallée-de-la-Lièvre PSL: 110 rue Georges (Buckingham), Door 18.
- Petite Nation PSL: 14 rue St-André (Saint-André-Avelin).
- Des Collines PSL: Cantley CLSC, 850 Montée de la Source (Cantley).
- Chelsea CLSC, 490 route 105 (Chelsea).
- Val-des-Monts CLSC, 1884 route Carr (Val-des-Monts).
- Masham CLSC, 9 chemin Passe-Partout (Sainte-Cécile-de-Masham).
- Maniwaki PSL: 14 rue Comeau (Maniwaki), Door C (New location effective August 31: 177 rue des Oblats).
- Pontiac PSL: 290 rue Marion (Shawville).

The primary goal of vaccination is to reduce complications, hospitalizations, and deaths associated with the flu. Protection generally develops within two weeks of receiving the vaccine and does not prevent all respiratory infections.

Can Australia indicate how severe the upcoming flu season will be in Quebec?

Flu activity observed in Australia—where winter occurs during the northern hemisphere’s summer—provides useful information to public health authorities. However, a particularly active flu season in Australia does not necessarily mean that Canada, including Quebec, will experience a similar situation a few months later.

According to the Government of Quebec, the World Health Organization relies on international surveillance of influenza viruses to recommend the composition of seasonal vaccines. For 2026–2027, the vaccine used in the northern hemisphere includes components targeting the A(H1N1), A(H3N2), and B/Victoria viruses. This formulation takes into account the viruses likely to circulate in the coming months.

However, the evolution and circulation of viruses remain difficult to predict. The Australian data serve as a surveillance indicator but are not a definitive prediction of the Quebec flu season.

Health authorities strongly recommend vaccination for people at increased risk of complications and for those who come into contact with vulnerable individuals. Residents can visit Quebec.ca and Clic Santé to learn about eligibility criteria and appointment procedures for the current campaign, among other information.

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Film, theatre and a human library mark intercultural week in Gatineau



Tashi Farmilo
LJI Reporter

The Semaine québécoise des rencontres interculturelles (Quebec Intercultural Encounters Week) runs across the province from November 2 to 8, but in Gatineau it will stretch to 17 days, as the city and a network of community organizations present film, theatre, music and conversation from Old Aylmer to Hull between October 30 and November 15 to bring together residents of every background and strengthen their sense of belonging to the city they share.

The program opens October 30 with a celebration of the Day of the Dead at the Maison du citoyen, running through November 2. UNAM-Canada, joined by the Embassy of Mexico, the Modern American School and the city, will set up a traditional ofrenda, the altar on which Mexican families honour those they have lost, along with workshops, face painting and guided tours from 10 am to 4 pm each day.

The film collective Ciné-Jonction presents a double bill at Cabaret La Basoche in Old Aylmer on November 3. Nitassinan, at 6 pm, was directed by the Innu poet Joséphine Bacon and the filmmaker Kim O'Bomsawin and examines Innu history and resilience; its title is the Innu-aimun word for "our land." It is followed at 8 pm by Pier Paolo Pasolini's Appunti per un'Orestide africana (Notes Towards an African Orestes), a 1970 film in which the Italian director scouts locations for an African adaptation of Aeschylus' Oresteia that was never made, then screens his footage for African students in Rome and asks for their views.

The Carrefour jeunesse-emploi de l'Outaouais (Outaouais Youth Employment Centre) hosts Rhythms and Cultures Meet! on November 5, a midday gathering at which cultural groups will share their dances, music and traditions, from 11:45 am to 1:45 pm. That evening, from 7 pm to 9 pm, Galerie Montcalm opens an exhibition the city lists in English as Sowed in the Stars, Here Are a Few Flowers to Remember Me, which explores welcome, belonging and migration, with the artist in attendance.



Film screenings in Old Aylmer, a Day of the Dead altar, a play and a human library are among the events Gatineau has scheduled from October 30 to November 15 to mark the Semaine québécoise des rencontres interculturelles (Quebec Intercultural Encounters Week). (TF)

PHOTO: GATINEAU BULLETIN ARCHIVES, 2023, UNAM CANADA

Accueil-Parrainage Outaouais (Outaouais Welcome and Sponsorship) presents Roots and Flowers, a play about the many paths and identities that make up the community, at Salle Jean-Després on November 6 at 7:30 pm.

Accompagnement des femmes immigrantes de l'Outaouais (Support for Immigrant Women of the Outaouais), which opened an office in Aylmer last year, will hold a human library at the Maison du citoyen library on November 7 from 2 pm to 4 pm. In place of books, participants meet one on one with people who share their histories, cultures and life stories.

The provincial week ends November 8 at La Cabane en bois rond, where the Centre islamique de l'Outaouais

(Islamic Centre of the Outaouais) will host booths, activities and cultural displays from 11 am to 4 pm under the title Quebec Together: One Table... A Thousand Stories!

Gatineau hosts Welcome Home! on November 11, an evening at the Maison du citoyen where newcomers and longtime residents can learn about local resources and meet community partners, from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. The program closes November 15 with Your Passport to Gatineau, a family day of performances and participatory activities at the Maison du citoyen, from 10 am to 4 pm.

The full schedule is available at: https://calendrier.gatineau.cloud/calendrier/evenement.aspx?langue=fr-ca&id_evenement=46654.

Avi Lewis veut ramener le NPD à ses racines progressistes



Petar Seslija

Le chef du Nouveau Parti démocratique (NPD), Avi Lewis, a rencontré des membres et des partisans du parti à la microbrasserie À La Dérive Brasserie Artisanale dans le secteur Hull, lors d'une soirée consacrée à l'avenir de la formation politique au Québec et en Outaouais tenue le 19 octobre. L'événement, animé par Avni Soma, la présidente de l'association de la circonscription de Hull-Aylmer, a donné la chance aux participants présents d'échanger sur les enjeux sociaux et économiques qui touchent leurs communautés.

Journaliste, documentariste et militant de longue date, Avi Lewis a défendu sa vision progressiste qui place les travailleurs et les services publics au centre des décisions politiques. Son approche repose notamment sur la réduction des inégalités économiques, une plus grande



Avi Lewis était de passage à Gatineau lors d'un événement spécial d'échanges d'idées, entre autres. PHOTO : OTTAWA NPD

contribution des grandes fortunes et des entreprises les plus profitables, ainsi que le renforcement des programmes destinés à soutenir la population.

Sur le plan économique, il a mentionné préconiser un rôle plus important de l'État, notamment pour développer des emplois de qualité, améliorer l'accès au logement

et protéger les services publics. De plus, Il défend une transition écologique qui ne repose pas uniquement sur la réduction des émissions, mais qui favorise aussi la création d'emplois et une économie plus durable.

Lors de la soirée et des échanges, Il a affirmé qu'il souhaite ramener le NPD à des positions plus fermes en matière de justice sociale, de pouvoir des travailleurs et de propriété publique. À noter que son parcours militant a notamment été marqué par son engagement envers la justice climatique et la démocratie économique.

Au Québec, le défi de taille consiste à implanter cette vision en propositions qui répondent aux réalités régionales, tout en tenant compte des compétences et des priorités propres à la province.

La période de questions et la rencontre informelle qui ont suivi la discussion ont permis aux membres et à ses admirateurs de prendre part aux échanges sur l'avenir du parti et sa capacité à regagner la confiance de la population.

Tourism's matchmakers set up shop in Outaouais: industry trade show



Tashi Farmilo
LJ Reporter

Bienvenue Québec 2026 opened at the Hôtel-Casino du Lac-Leamy on October 19, drawing some 400 tour operators, travel agents and the businesses hoping to sell to them for three days of rapid-fire meetings that Tourisme Outaouais hopes will write the region into bus tours and vacation packages sold across Canada, the United States and Europe.

The trade show has been owned and run by the Fédération des transporteurs par autobus since 1989, and this is its 38th edition. The format is unsentimental. Buyers sit at tables, sellers rotate through in 10-minute slots, and roughly 8,000 of those appointments were booked between the opening bell on October 19 and the close on October 21. "It is a marketplace dedicated to promoting and selling Quebec as a destination," said FTA chief executive Luc Fortin. "A crossroads where supply meets demand."

Everyone speaking had a shorter word for it. "It is literally the speed dating of travel," said Geneviève Latulippe, chief executive of Tourisme Outaouais. Sophie Chatel, the Liberal MP for Pontiac-Kitigan Zibi, called it matchmaking. "I want to make the match in our region," she said.

Latulippe's pitch leaned on geography and on a rivalry locals know well. The Outaouais sits inside the national capital region, minutes from an international airport and a train station, and she argued the two sides of the river sell better together than apart, an arrangement between neighbouring tourism offices she said exists nowhere else in the country. "We are Ottawa's cool sister," she said, crediting the region with a bolder and more vibrant streak of its own, a downtown that can hold its own on culture and food, and woods that begin a few minutes past it.

That perception is the problem the week is meant to solve. Buyers who know the national capital region often know only the museums and Parliament on the Ontario side. Latulippe used her turn to push the territory past Gatineau, into the regional county municipalities of Papineau, Vallée-de-la-



Some 400 tour operators, travel agents and suppliers are at the Hôtel-Casino du Lac-Leamy through October 21 for Bienvenue Québec 2026, the tourism trade show that Fédération des transporteurs par autobus chief executive Luc Fortin says typically yields about \$50 million in contracts, and that Tourisme Outaouais is using to sell the region to buyers who mostly come from outside Quebec. (TF)

PHOTO: TASHI FARMILO

Gatineau, Pontiac and Collines-de-l'Outaouais, which she described as under-visited.

The composition of the buyer list explains the effort. According to Tourisme Outaouais, 32 per cent of registered buyers come from Quebec, 44 per cent from the rest of Canada, 17 per cent from the United States and 7 per cent from other international markets. Fortin said buyers travelled from seven countries, among them Germany, France and Italy. "For Quebec's tourism trade balance, that matters," he said. "It is foreign money spent here."

Tourisme Outaouais counts close to 1,000 room nights tied directly to the event, and projected nearly \$800,000 in direct spending for the region when it announced the hosting win in

2025. The money the industry actually comes for arrives later. Fortin said contracts worth roughly \$50 million are typically concluded in the wake of each edition, and that about 4,500 motorcoach trips a year are organized out of deals struck on the floor. He cited a vineyard in his own region that books 75 to 80 per cent of its motorcoach visits here. "Behind every tour, an entire tourism ecosystem is set in motion," he said, "from motorcoach operators to hotels, restaurants and attractions."

Delegates were shown the region before they were shown the sales floor. On October 18, excursions fanned out across Gatineau and the four regional county municipalities, followed by a private evening at Square Old Chelsea. The official opening reception takes place the evening of October 19 at the Canadian Museum of History. On October 20, participants will tour a selection of regional restaurants before an evening at Club Aléa presented by the Hôtel-Casino du Lac-Leamy and Croisières Outaouais.

Chatel used her turn to run through the inventory of a riding she noted is larger than Belgium: Gatineau Park at the city's edge, the Gatineau, Lièvre, Noire and Coulonge rivers, the lakes along the route north toward Maniwaki, the cycling corridor from Chelsea to Wakefield, the farms and vineyards in between. She also noted that Bill S-229, the legislation she co-developed with Senator Rosa Galvez to give Gatineau Park statutory protection, is before the Senate.

Kevin Taylor, executive vice-president and chief operating officer of casinos and gaming halls at Loto-Québec, said the property was glad to have the business. "This event is a privileged opportunity to showcase everything that makes the Outaouais dynamic and to build lasting ties with tourism industry professionals," he said.

Fortin noted the FTA was making its second visit to the region this year, having held its annual event at the same property earlier in 2026 and liked it enough to come back. A 39th edition is coming, though it will be staged elsewhere, with the host region revealed at the closing lunch on October 21. "We believe in Quebec and we believe in its regions," he said. "Quebec is beautiful, it is big, it is welcoming, and it deserves to be discovered."

An Advent calendar to support Moisson Outaouais



Petar Seslija

Rochef Chocolatier is partnering with Moisson Outaouais to offer an Advent calendar, with a portion of the proceeds going to support individuals and families facing food insecurity.

Rochef Chocolatier will donate \$22.50 to Moisson Outaouais for every calendar sold to help combat food insecurity in the region. The project is led by Roch Fournier, founding president of Rochef Chocolatier, and Marie-Pier Chaput, director of communications at Moisson Outaouais.

The calendar contains 816 grams of chocolate. From December 1 through 24, consumers will enjoy four chocolates per day, plus four fleur de sel caramel chocolates on December 25.

The initiative also benefits from the participation of more than 43 retailers in the Outaouais region. According to the organizers, these businesses are taking part in the sale without receiving a commission, thereby helping to maximize the impact of this fundraiser.

Pre-sales have already begun on the Rochef Chocolatier



Sales of the Advent calendars will help combat food insecurity in the region.

PHOTO: ROCHEF CHOCOLATIER

website. Starting in November, the Advent calendars will also be available at several local stores, including IGA Extra Famille Plamondon in Gatineau, Bobino Bagel in Hull and Gatineau, as well as La Trappe à Fromage and La Boîte à

Grains, which have multiple locations.

Other retailers in Gatineau, Chelsea, and Cantley will also be participating in the distribution.

To reserve your Advent calendar, visit rochef.ca.

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JOB OFFERS

PART-TIME JOB OPPORTUNITY: The *Pontiac Journal* is looking for part-time community reporters throughout MRC Pontiac and the Municipality of Pontiac. This is the perfect opportunity for retirees, those seeking a second income, or anyone interested in occasional work. Do you enjoy attending local events? Do you care deeply about supporting your community? Do you enjoy writing? Do you have access to a car and a camera? Are you looking for a flexible schedule and the chance to be part of a team? Send a brief resume and a cover letter to: editor@journalpontiac.com.

JOB OFFERS

CHEZ PUTTERS IS CURRENTLY LOOKING FOR A BARMAID/BARMAN, WAITER/WAITRESS. Position available immediately. Submit your resume in person at Chez Putters, located at 181 Rue Principale, Gatineau (Aylmer), QC, or by email at info@chezputters.ca.

OFFICE MANAGER SOUGHT BY AYLMEYER HERITAGE ASSOCIATION: Candidates for this part-time position (16-20 hours per week) must be bilingual (English and French), curious, motivated and well organized. They must also be familiar with the Microsoft Office suite, Google Apps and related programs, and be comfortable interacting with people. Salary is commensurate with experience. Responsibilities include overseeing the association's office, ensuring the Archives & Heritage Resource Centre is open to the public three days a week between 10 am and 3 pm with the help of volunteers, and providing support to the board of directors in areas such as membership, communications, bookkeeping and general administration. Visit associationpatrimoineaylmer.com for the full job description. Please send your letter of interest and resume to: associationpatrimoineaylmer@gmail.com. Closing date: The position remains open until filled. Interviews start on October 7.

MISCELLANEOUS

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BECAUSE WE HAVE YOUR ACTIVITIES AT HEART COMMUNITY EVENTS

AYLMER LEGION BRANCH 33 -Oct. 21 at 6:30 p.m.: Trivia night. -Oct. 31 at 1 pm: Cribbage tournament. -Oct. 31 at 7 p.m.: Halloween party with live music by "Arc of Fire"; prizes for best costumes. -Nov. 4 at 6:30 p.m.: "Field of poppies" paint night; info and registration: 819-743-7491. -Nov. 7 at 7 p.m.: Singer-songwriter Jason Coyle. -Nov. 11 at 10:30 a.m.: Remembrance Day parade departs from the Legion along Principale St. to the Commemorative Park. -Nov. 11 at 10:55 a.m.: Remembrance Day ceremony at the Commemorative Park, followed by a reception at the Branch. -Nov. 14 at 1 p.m.: Euchre tournament. -Nov. 14 at 7 p.m.: Dance night with "Lower Road" band. The Aylmer Legion is located at 59 Bancroft Street. For more information, please contact us via email: 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.

CALLING ALL ROCK, LED ZEPPELIN, AND ELVIS FANS: Live music is back at Putters in Aylmer! Location: 181 Principale Street, Gatineau. Saturday, October 24 — Mothership, a Led Zeppelin tribute. Doors open at 7 p.m.; show starts at 9 p.m. Tickets: \$25. <https://lepointdevente.com/tickets/zeppelin2026>. Saturday, November 7 at 8:30 p.m. — Elvis Tribute Night. Tickets: \$25. <https://thepointofsale.com/tickets/elvis2026>. We can't wait to see you!

COUNTRY HALLOWEEN PARTY AT THE BRITISH! Saturday, October 31, grab your cowboy boots, throw on your best Halloween costume, and join us for our first-ever Country Halloween Party! Kick off the night with line dancing led by the Goodwill Dancers from 8 to 10 pm. Whether you're a seasoned dancer or trying it for the first time, everyone is welcome on the dance floor. At 10 pm, DJ Najj takes the stage to keep the party going late into the night with a high-energy mix of pop, country, and EDM hits. Whether you're here to dance, grab a drink, show off your costume, or soak up the atmosphere, this is one Halloween party you won't want to miss! 71 Rue Principale, Gatineau, QC.

JAZZ OPEN JAM AT THE BRITISH October 23, 2026. Are you a jazz lover, jazz musician, or both? Join us for our first-ever Jazz Open Jam! Come listen, play, and connect with fellow jazz enthusiasts as our talented house jazz band sets the stage for an evening of great music. Featuring an exceptional trumpet player and pianist, our house band is ready to welcome fellow jazz musicians to the jam. Not a musician? No problem! Come enjoy the vibes, grab a drink, have dinner, and soak up the sounds of a live jazz session. Sign-ups: 6 pm. Open Jam: 7-10 pm. 71 Rue Principale, Gatineau, QC.

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

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