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Les marchés de Noël répandent la joie

Au cours des deux dernières fins de semaine, l'esprit des Fêtes a animé les salles communautaires du Pontiac alors que des marchés et bazars festifs offraient des cadeaux faits main, des gourmandises et beaucoup de bonne humeur.

À Quyon, Bristol, Shawville et L'Isle-aux-Allumettes, les artisans locaux ont présenté leurs créations : tricot, savons artisanaux, vitraux, articles en bois, poterie et sacs en denim recyclé. Au Marché artisanal de Noël d'Onslow, trente-deux exposants proposaient des idées cadeaux et des produits locaux, tandis que des représentants de l'Expo de Shawville vendaient des billets à l'avance pour l'édition 2026.

Au Marché de Noël de Chapeau, le Marché de Chapeau et le Centre communautaire Harrington accueillaient les visiteurs avec du chili maison, du chocolat chaud, des tirages et du maquillage pour enfants. Les profits ont été remis au Marché de Chapeau, au Comité touristique de l'Île-aux-Allumettes et à West Pontiac Connects.

À Bristol, l'église St. Edward a relancé son thé et bazar de Noël avec sandwiches, sacs mystères et tirage de paniers-cadeaux. Les organisateurs espèrent en refaire un événement annuel.

À Shawville, le Marché des artisans du Pontiac a aussi attiré les foules, avec plus de 40 exposants soutenant l'école Dr. S.E. McDowell.

Consultez le *Journal* pour découvrir d'autres marchés et événements des Fêtes à venir !

Holiday markets spread cheer

Over the past two weekends, Christmas spirit filled community halls across the Pontiac as festive markets and bazaars delivered handmade gifts, delicious treats, and plenty of holiday cheer.

In Quyon Bristol, Shawville and L'Isle-aux-Allumettes, local artisans showcased everything from knitted goods, soaps, and stained glass to wooden crafts, pottery, and upcycled denim purses. At the Onslow Christmas Craft Sale, 32 vendors offered stocking stuffers and local products, while Shawville Fair reps sold advance tickets for the 2026 fair.

At the Chapeau Christmas Market, the Marché de Chapeau and the Harrington Community Centre welcomed shoppers with homemade chili, hot chocolate, raffles, and facepainting for the kids. Proceeds were shared among three local non-profits: the Marché de Chapeau, Allumette Island Tourism, and West Pontiac Connects.

In Bristol, St. Edward's Church revived its Christmas Tea and Bazaar with a full house, sandwiches, mystery bags, and a gift basket draw. Organizers hope it becomes annual again.

The Pontiac Artisans Market in Shawville also packed in crowds, with over 40 vendors supporting Dr. S.E. McDowell Elementary through table fees.

Check the *Journal* for more holiday markets and events to come!

– Pontiac Journal Staff

À L'INTÉRIEUR INSIDE



Get ready
for winter!

See pgs. 19 – 21

Cinq
médecins-chefs
démissionnent

Five chief
physicians resign
Voir/see pgs. 2 & 6

Analyse du
budget fédéral
Federal budget review

Voir/see pgs. 3 & 9

Nuclear dump
permit back
in court

See pg. 7

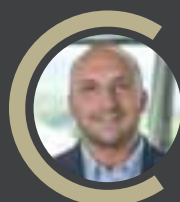
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CENTURY 21
Élite

Medical mutiny: chief physicians resign in protest of Bill 2

TASHI FARMILO
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

OUTAOUAIS – Several Centre intégré de santé et de services sociaux de l'Outaouais (CISSSO) physicians have resigned from administrative roles following the adoption of Bill 2, Quebec's controversial health reform law, exacerbating existing service shortages in the region.

Pushed through without debate (under closure) on October 25, Bill 2 introduces changes to physician compensation and oversight. It ties part of doctors' income to patient access targets and increases government control over medical practice. The law also includes penalties for doctors who engage in collective action, like coordinated resignations or refusing to supervise trainees.

Because of these penalties, many physicians are reluctant to openly object. Jean Pigeon, spokesperson for the advocacy group SOS Outaouais, said this has created uncertainty about who plans to remain in the

public health system. According to Pigeon, five physicians have resigned from management positions, though clinical intentions remain unclear in some cases.

Dr. Éric Bégin resigned from his administrative role as Chief of Surgery. Dr. Trevor Hennessey is leaving both his clinical and administrative duties as Chief of Anesthesiology and plans to move to Ontario. Dr. Shelly Sud stepped down as Chief of Oncology. Dr. Lionel Ange Pongui resigned as Chief of Obstetrics-Gynaecology but continues seeing patients. Dr. Mustapha Chelfi, a radiation oncologist and one of the founders of the Gatineau Cancer Centre, is taking early retirement, citing exhaustion and disillusionment with the direction of government policy.

During a press conference in Gatineau on November 10, Dr. Hennessey described the collapse of a system long under strain. "We've witnessed amputation after

amputation [of health services] in the region," he said. "We lost thoracic surgery over 15 years ago, so we can't care for lung cancer patients locally. We lost obstetrical services in Shawville. This August, we lost our only vascular surgeon. There's really nothing left to amputate. The system here is dying."

He criticized government leadership for failing to address long-standing issues, stating the problem isn't lack of money, but poor governance and lack of responsiveness.

Pigeon echoed those concerns and accused Premier François Legault and Health Minister Christian Dubé of turning the crisis into a political dispute. "They've made doctors the scapegoats for government failures," Pigeon said. "Instead of



At a November 10 press conference in Gatineau hosted by SOS Outaouais, Dr. Isabelle Gagnon, Dr. Cyril Barthélémy-Ducharme, Dr. Mustapha Chelfi, Dr. Trevor Hennessey, Dr. Lionel-Ange Pongui, Dr. Éric Bégin and spokesperson Jean Pigeon spoke out about the worsening health-care crisis in the Outaouais following the adoption of Bill 2.

listening, they're blaming the people trying to keep the system running."

In a public message, Santé Québec, the province's newly established health-operations agency, acknowledged the law has caused anxiety in some areas and deteriorated work environments. It stated they're committed to ensuring continuity of

services and minimizing impacts on patients. CISSSO declined to comment.

Dubé, who sponsored Bill 2, announced the government will suspend two of the law's more contentious provisions: one that tied compensation to access targets, and another requiring doctors to request permission before working outside the public system.

He described these changes as an effort to reopen dialogue with the medical community.

The Health Ministry said it's monitoring the Outaouais' situation closely and emphasized there's a difference between expressing the intention to resign and actually stepping down.

— "Bill 2" p. 9

La MRC de Pontiac envisage un nouveau parc régional

MÉLISSA GÉLINAS

MRC PONTIAC – La MRC de Pontiac a récemment présenté une déclaration d'intérêt pour obtenir du financement en vue d'aménager un parc régional dans le cadre du programme fédéral de Destination Canada.

Ce type de territoire désigné vise à soutenir le développement durable grâce à des activités économiques et récréatives, notamment le plein air et le tourisme, tout en assurant la conservation et la protection de l'environnement.

Selon Francis Beausoleil, conseiller stratégique en

communication pour la MRC, la demande n'a pas été retenue, mais l'initiative demeure active. Des discussions sont en cours afin d'évaluer différents emplacements ainsi que les appuis et partenariats possibles. « Aucun site n'a encore été confirmé et plusieurs options restent à explorer », a souligné M. Beausoleil. Le projet demeure à un stade préliminaire.

La première étape de l'analyse est prévue ce mois-ci, à la suite d'une résolution du Conseil des maires. Des mises à jour seront partagées au fur et à mesure de l'avancement du projet.

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Investissements fédéraux : invite le Pontiac à saisir l'occasion

TASHI FARMILLO

MRC PONTIAC – Le budget fédéral 2025 du Canada, déposé le 4 novembre, arrive dans un contexte de hausse des coûts, de croissance économique lente et de tensions commerciales mondiales renouvelées. Pour la députée de Pontiac, Sophie Chatel, ce plan national offre un potentiel important pour la région.

« Ce budget est axé sur la construction », a indiqué la députée Chatel. « Nous investissons dans les infrastructures, les logements, les gens, et nous le faisons de façon à renforcer les communautés canadiennes. »

L'un des volets les plus importants concerne le logement : des milliards pour construire davantage de maisons, en mettant l'accent sur l'abordabilité. Les municipalités qui présentent des projets prêts à réaliser et comprenant les services essentiels, comme l'eau et les égouts, peuvent obtenir du soutien. Les municipalités du Pontiac, souvent limitées par des infrastructures vieillissantes, pourraient en bénéficier directement.

« Si on veut plus de logements en milieu rural, il faut investir dans les infrastructures des petites municipalités », a expliqué la députée Chatel. « Elles n'ont tout simplement pas

la capacité fiscale pour le faire seules. C'est pourquoi nous envisageons aussi des partenariats pour des maisons préfabriquées, qui peuvent accélérer les projets et rendre le logement plus abordable. »

Les projets d'énergie propre sont également mis de l'avant. Les initiatives solaires locales, comme celles promues par la MRC, pourraient être admissibles aux nouveaux programmes fédéraux d'investissement. « D'énormes investissements arrivent dans l'énergie propre », a précisé la députée Chatel. « Si nous pouvons amener des maisons préfabriquées alimentées par l'énergie solaire en région rurale, nous le ferons. »

Le budget privilégie aussi les produits fabriqués au Canada, notamment le bois des scieries locales, touchées par les tarifs américains sur le bois d'œuvre. « Tout ce que nous construisons utilisera du bois, de l'acier et de la main-d'œuvre canadiens », a-t-elle souligné.

Pour soutenir la production alimentaire locale, le budget inclut une « super déduction fiscale » permettant aux entreprises de déduire entièrement, dès l'année de l'achat, le coût des équipements et de l'expansion.

« J'ai acheté un pot de cornichons dernièrement. Les concombres venaient de l'Ontario, mais ils



SOUmise

Le budget fédéral 2025 prévoit des investissements dans le logement, les infrastructures, l'énergie propre et l'industrie locale. La députée Sophie Chatel encourage les communautés à saisir l'occasion et à miser sur le développement local pour assurer la résilience à long terme.

étaient transformés et emballés en Allemagne », a raconté la députée Chatel. Produire ces aliments ici « crée des emplois et garde davantage de valeur au Canada », a-t-elle ajouté, citant les transformateurs laitiers et céréaliers du Pontiac comme entreprises prêtes à croître. « Elles ont simplement besoin d'outils pour rendre cette croissance viable, et cette mesure aide en réduisant les coûts initiaux. »

Pour aider les ménages à composer avec la hausse du coût de la vie, le budget

réduit le taux d'imposition fédéral le plus bas, passant

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de 15 à 14 %. Pour un ménage à deux revenus, l'économie pourrait atteindre 840 \$ par année. « C'est une façon d'aider les gens à faire face aux prix alimentaires et au coût de la vie », a expliqué la députée Chatel.

Les repas scolaires font aussi partie du plan. Le programme alimentaire national fournira des diners sains dans les écoles participantes, et la députée Chatel s'attend à ce que la plupart des écoles du Pontiac y aient accès.

— Suite en p. 7

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PONTIAC
ONTARIO

ÉDITORIAL

Si le Pontiac cherche, il trouvera



Dominique
BOMANS

ÉDITORIALISTE
EDITORIALIST

Même en essayant bien fort, aux lendemains des élections municipales, je ne pouvais pas passer à côté du sujet de l'heure : l'analyse des résultats des candidates et des candidats.

Marqués par la réélection de Jane Toller, et de plusieurs anciens maires, les résultats semblent démontrer la volonté de la population pontissoise d'opter pour la continuité. Toutefois, c'est avec une marge serrée que Jane Toller obtenait ce troisième mandat. Ayant récolté 2338 votes, elle était suivie d'assez près par Jean-Pierre Landry avec 1671 votes et par Josey Bouchard avec 1605 votes. Le 2 novembre dernier, aucune figure ne semble s'être réellement imposée et la victoire quelque peu discrète de Jane Toller reflète l'absence d'un ralliement politique. Le défi de la préfète est d'autant plus grand qu'elle a marqué sa volonté de jouer le rôle de rassembleuse auprès des mairesses et des maires des différentes municipalités. Du côté de ces derniers, les résultats sont plus mitigés. Le scrutin est à la fois marqué par la réélection de certaines et de certains d'entre eux, parfois même sans qu'elles et ils n'aient eu besoin de faire face à une quelconque opposition, et par l'arrivée de nouveaux visages incarnant le souffle

d'un changement.

Un constat, pour moi, s'impose : la MRC de Pontiac a du mal à trouver son identité politique. Incapable de marquer un virage net, elle continue d'osciller entre conservatisme et renouveau alors qu'à la table de son conseil siègent dix-huit maires, élus par la population certes, mais d'opinions tellement divergentes qu'elles sont bien difficiles à concilier quand vient le temps de parler d'une seule voix. À la veille des élections municipales, les quatre candidats promettaient tous de faire des pieds et des mains pour que le Pontiac soit reconnu ailleurs, mais pour qu'il le soit, faudrait-il qu'il y ait une identité à affirmer, une appartenance à partager et des priorités à proposer.

Les résultats des élections municipales de 2025 confirment le portrait plutôt éclaté de la vie politique de notre MRC. Le Pontiac restera-t-il tributaire des divisions qui l'ont jusqu'ici animé ou pourra-t-il montrer son unité face au gouvernement provincial qui n'a de cesse de l'oublier? Les enjeux sont multiples, que ce soit en matière d'éducation, d'économie ou de santé. Placer le Pontiac sur la « map », ce n'est pas qu'une question de légitimité, c'est aussi une question de représentativité. À force de tirer de tous bords, tous côtés, il est bien possible que l'on finisse par nous manquer. Si les victoires individuelles sont remarquables – et à remarquer –, c'est en collectivité que l'on peut se démarquer. Depuis le temps que le Pontiac se cherche, il finira bien par se trouver.

Celebrating David Gillespie and the value of local leadership



Lily
RYAN

ÉDITEUR
PUBLISHER

Celebrating our people is more important than one might think, especially in a time when good news feels rare. Recently, TALQ — the provincial advocacy group for organizations supporting anglophone services — honoured 30 people who make a difference in their communities and who contribute in meaningful, often under-recognized ways.

The occasion marked the organization's 30th anniversary. A call for nominations went out in late summer, encouraging residents across Quebec to highlight the unsung champions who strengthen their regions. Several nominees came from the Pontiac, with one ultimately selected as a recipient: David Gillespie of Allumette Island. Mr. Gillespie is a changemaker on many fronts. A dedicated farmer, he has deep roots in his community and brings that commitment to every role he takes on. He also helped pull the Regional Association of West Quebecers into shape during his time as president, serving until this year. In local media, he chairs the board at CHIP FM, helping ensure the station continues offering quality local news and remains a trusted voice on the airwaves.

What stands out in Gillespie's win goes beyond his résumé or even his leadership style. He is one of thirty exceptional individuals — a phrase used by Minister of

Canadian Identity and Culture Steven Guilbeault — honoured at a moment when the public conversation can feel overwhelmingly negative. Recognizing the people who work quietly, consistently and passionately to improve life around them serves as a reminder that progress does not only happen in policy rooms or board meetings. It happens in fields, in small offices, in community halls and local newsrooms.

How often do we celebrate people this way? Much more rarely than we should. Consider the *Pontiac Journal's* Readers' Choice Awards, another celebration of local leadership. The awards night this year was a vibrant, high-energy event dedicated to shining a light on those who make a difference in our towns and villages. The cheers for the people who keep our communities thriving simply cannot be captured in words.

Across Pontiac, the Outaouais, Quebec and Canada, countless individuals are quietly shaping the places we call home. This is why evenings of recognition — like TALQ's 30th anniversary celebration on November 13 — matter. Even Quebec Premier François Legault offered words acknowledging the importance of these changemakers, noting that Quebec is fortunate to have over 1.3 million anglophones contributing to the province's vitality.

Everyone at the *Journal* echoes that gratitude. To the neighbours who drive patients to medical appointments, to those who volunteer countless hours for community groups, and to the David Gillespies of this world who take bold action to make big changes — thank you.

NOUVELLES SCOLAIRES – SCHOOL NEWS

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PONTIAC HIGH SCHOOL SENDS OFF THE CLASS OF 2025

The PHS Class of 2025 gathered with family and friends on November 10 to celebrate their achievements and reflect on the journey that brought them to graduation. Principal Luke McLaren praised the students' grit, adaptability and determination, noting these qualities will guide them as they move into further studies or careers. Sixty graduates received their diplomas to cheers from the packed auditorium, followed by the presentation of academic prizes and \$40,000 in bursaries donated by local individuals and businesses.

Valedictorian Isaac Graham delivered a heartfelt address, highlighting how shared experiences in sports, school groups and theatre built strong bonds among students and staff. He acknowledged the difficult days many faced, reminding classmates that perseverance carried them through. Graham thanked teachers, school staff and families for their steady support, emphasizing how memories formed throughout high school have shaped who the graduates are today. He closed by encouraging classmates to view this moment not as an ending but as a beginning filled with possibility. The evening concluded with families gathering for photos and celebrating the challenges and triumphs that defined the class.

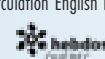
-Clifford Welsh

PHOTO: Principal's Award of Distinction recipients, recognized for achieving 80% or higher.



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LETTRES

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Law 2: Outaouais on the brink

The coalition SOS Outaouais denounces the disastrous consequences of Quebec's Law 2 on our region's health-care network. Pushed through without debate on October 25, this so-called 'reorganization' law disrupts medical compensation and imposes sanctions while ignoring on-the-ground realities. In a chronically underfunded region already facing severe staffing shortages, its impact has been a shock wave.

Since its adoption, five department heads at the CISSS de l'Outaouais—surgery, anesthesiology, oncology, and obstetrics-gynecology—have resigned, even as nine of twelve operating rooms were already closed for lack of nurses. This is not reform but organized hemorrhaging. In a region underfunded for decades, every departure further weakens teams already at the breaking point.

While the government claims Law 2 will improve access to care, the opposite is occurring. Physicians are resigning, leaving the region, or stepping down from management roles amid coercive, unstable conditions. Comparisons that show Quebec doctors earning more than counterparts elsewhere miss the Outaouais reality: higher gross pay cannot offset deteriorating work conditions, erratic schedules,

outdated equipment, and the constant pull of nearby Ontario. On the ground, clinicians ask how they can diagnose patients when exam rooms aren't disinfected, or operate when surgical units close at 4 pm for lack of nurses.

The political fallout is equally telling. The resignation of Minister Lionel Carmant—the CAQ caucus's only physician—signalled open dissent inside the government. Parliamentary sources indicated frustration with the Health Minister following that departure, and multiple MNAs voiced unease, with at least one calling for a moratorium to assess real-world impacts. When even members of the governing party decry authoritarian leadership and a lack of listening, it's a clear sign to change course.

For SOS Outaouais, this isn't just regional—it's a warning for all Quebec. Outaouais is hit first because of its proximity to Ontario and a fragile network, but other regions could soon face the same scenario. Law 2 does not improve access to care; it drives doctors away, and only a province-wide outcry can protect our public system.

*Jean Pigeon,
Spokesperson, SOS Outaouais
(Trans.)*

Keep your dollars in Canada

There is a strong sentiment across Canada to buy Canadian, or at least to buy from countries other than the United States. Hopefully, here in the Pontiac, our regional governments, mayors, community leaders, business owners, and administrators—along with the general population—will take part enthusiastically

in this effort.

Spending money on vacations within Canada, instead of elsewhere, is one excellent example of how we can support our own economy.

*Wayne Laporte,
MANSFIELD*

A party without vision or solutions

Rumours abound that Pierre Poilievre's leadership of the Conservative Party is in jeopardy. Party members are reportedly dissatisfied with his leadership, and in two months a review will determine his fate. Why would anyone vote for a leader whose party lost an election after being 20 points ahead in the polls?

Just last year, Poilievre mocked the NDP for working with the Liberals to create a Canadian Dental Plan for less well-off Canadians. He opposed both the dental and pharmacare plans, the latter still struggling to get off the ground. He told Canadians not to vote for the NDP, yet now his own members are abandoning ship and moving to the Liberals. How embarrassing.

The problem with the Conservatives is that they have no vision for Canada. They offer no meaningful policies on housing affordability, food prices, or health care.

"Axe the tax" made for a catchy slogan, but Poilievre has sided with big food corporations and ignored the growing inequality between rich and poor. Nor has he convinced anyone—besides a few diehard Conservatives—that he could navigate Canada through the turmoil created by U.S. trade and tariff policies.

Beyond that, Poilievre seems drawn to the Trump style of politics: nasty put-downs, targeting minorities, blaming immigrants, and promoting questionable conspiracies. The question remains—why would anyone want to be part of such a dysfunctional system? Why would anyone vote for a party without vision or solutions? Its quest for power appears to be its only visible reason for existing in Parliament.

*Carl Hager, Vice-president,
Pontiac NDP riding association*

Loi 2 : l'Outaouais au bord du gouffre

La coalition SOS Outaouais dénonce les conséquences désastreuses de la Loi 2 du gouvernement du Québec sur le réseau de la santé de notre région. Adoptée sans débat le 25 octobre, cette prétendue « réorganisation » bouleverse la rémunération médicale et impose des sanctions, tout en ignorant les réalités du terrain. Dans une région chroniquement sous-financée et déjà frappée par une grave pénurie de personnel, son impact a provoqué une onde de choc.

Depuis son adoption, quatre chefs de départements du CISSS de l'Outaouais — chirurgie, anesthésiologie, oncologie et obstétrique-gynécologie — ont remis leur démission, alors même que neuf salles d'opération sur douze étaient déjà fermées faute d'infirmières. Ce n'est pas une réforme, mais une hémorragie organisée. Dans une région sous-financée depuis des décennies, chaque départ fragilise davantage des équipes déjà à bout de souffle.

Alors que le gouvernement prétend que la Loi 2 améliorera l'accès aux soins, c'est l'inverse qui se produit. Des médecins démissionnent, quittent la région ou abandonnent leurs fonctions de gestion, incapables de travailler dans un climat coercitif et instable. Les comparaisons indiquant que les médecins québécois sont mieux rémunérés qu'ailleurs ne reflètent pas la réalité de l'Outaouais : des salaires plus élevés ne compensent pas les

conditions de travail détériorées, les horaires imprévisibles, l'équipement désuet et l'exode constant vers l'Ontario voisin. Sur le terrain, les cliniciens se demandent comment diagnostiquer un patient lorsque la salle d'examen n'est pas désinfectée ou comment opérer quand le bloc ferme à 16 h par manque d'infirmières.

Les répercussions politiques sont tout aussi révélatrices. La démission du ministre Lionel Carmant — seul médecin du caucus caquiste — a été perçue comme un geste clair de dissidence au sein du gouvernement. Selon des sources parlementaires, plusieurs députés ont exprimé leur mécontentement envers le ministre de la Santé, et certains ont même réclamé un moratoire pour évaluer les impacts réels de la loi. Lorsque même les membres du parti au pouvoir dénoncent un leadership autoritaire et un manque d'écoute, c'est un signe qu'il est temps de changer de cap.

Pour SOS Outaouais, il ne s'agit pas seulement d'un enjeu régional : c'est un avertissement pour tout le Québec. L'Outaouais est frappé le premier en raison de sa proximité avec l'Ontario et d'un réseau déjà fragilisé, mais d'autres régions pourraient bientôt connaître le même scénario. La Loi 2 n'améliore pas l'accès aux soins ; elle pousse les médecins à partir. Seule une indignation provinciale pourra protéger notre système public.

*Jean Pigeon
Porte-parole, SOS Outaouais*

Gardons notre argent au Canada

Un fort sentiment se manifeste partout au Canada en faveur de l'achat de produits canadiens ou, à tout le moins, d'acheter ailleurs qu'aux États-Unis. J'espère qu'ici, dans le Pontiac, nos gouvernements régionaux, nos maires, nos leaders communautaires, nos propriétaires et administrateurs d'entreprises — ainsi que

la population en général — participeront avec enthousiasme à cet effort.

Dépenser son argent pour des vacances au Canada plutôt qu'à l'étranger est un excellent exemple de la façon dont nous pouvons soutenir notre propre économie.

*Wayne Laporte,
MANSFIELD*

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- Permis pour dépotoir nucléaire de retour en cour
- Nouveau chirurgien à l'hôpital de Shawville
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- New surgeon at Shawville Hospital
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Rejoignez la Chambre de commerce de Pontiac le 27 novembre au Vignoble Petit Chariot Rouge pour notre événement 5 à 7 de Noël.

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Looking forward to seeing you and thank you for your support at this time of year!



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Mutinerie médicale : Bill 2 déclenche une vague de démissions

TASHI FARMILO

OUTAOUAIS – Plusieurs médecins du Centre intégré de santé et de services sociaux de l'Outaouais (CISSSO) ont quitté leurs postes administratifs à la suite de l'adoption du projet de loi 2, la controversée réforme de la santé du Québec, aggravant les pénuries de services déjà présentes dans la région.

Adopté sans débat (par bâillon) le 25 octobre, le projet de loi 2 modifie la rémunération et la surveillance des médecins. Il lie une partie du revenu des médecins à des cibles d'accès pour les patients et accroît le contrôle gouvernemental sur la pratique médicale. La loi prévoit également des sanctions contre les médecins qui entreprennent des actions collectives, comme des démissions coordonnées ou le refus d'encadrer des stagiaires.

En raison de ces sanctions, plusieurs médecins hésitent à s'exprimer publiquement. Selon le porte-parole du groupe de défense SOS Outaouais, M. Jean Pigeon, cela crée de l'incertitude quant à savoir qui restera dans le réseau public. Selon lui, cinq médecins ont quitté leurs postes de gestion, bien que leurs intentions cliniques demeurent floues dans certains cas.

Le docteur Éric Bégin a démissionné de son rôle administratif de chef de chirurgie. Le docteur Trevor Hennessey quitte ses

fonctions cliniques et administratives de chef d'anesthésiologie et prévoit déménager en Ontario. La docteure Shelly Sud a quitté son poste de chef d'oncologie. Le docteur Lionel-Ange Pougui a démissionné comme chef d'obstétrique-gynécologie, mais continue de voir des patients. Le docteur Mustapha Chelfi, radio-oncologue et l'un des fondateurs du Centre de cancérologie de Gatineau, prend une retraite anticipée, invoquant l'épuisement et sa désillusion face à l'orientation des politiques gouvernementales.

Lors d'une conférence de presse à Gatineau le 10 novembre, le docteur Hennessey a décrit l'effondrement d'un système déjà fragilisé depuis longtemps. « Nous avons vu amputation après amputation [des services de santé] dans la région », a-t-il dit. « Il y a plus de 15 ans, nous avons perdu la chirurgie thoracique, alors nous ne pouvons plus traiter les patients atteints de cancer du poumon ici. Nous avons perdu les services obstétricaux à Shawville. En août dernier, nous avons perdu notre seul chirurgien vasculaire. Il n'y a vraiment plus rien à amputer. Le système meurt. »

Il a critiqué le leadership gouvernemental, affirmant que les problèmes ne proviennent pas d'un manque d'argent, mais plutôt d'une mauvaise gouvernance et d'un manque de réactivité.

— Suite en p. 15

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Major work at Onslow sends students to McDowell for a year

MÉLISSA GÉLINAS

QUYON – Onslow Elementary School students will temporarily relocate for the 2026–2027 school year while major structural work is carried out on the building's concrete floors. The renovations, affecting several classrooms, are considered essential to protect the long-term integrity of the school and to complete additional upgrades that cannot be done within a standard summer schedule.

To avoid disruption during construction, the Western Quebec School Board plans to move Onslow's students and staff to Dr. S.E. McDowell School in Shawville. They will be housed in the wing currently used by the Pontiac Continuing Education Centre.

The move is possible because adult education services will relocate permanently to the school board's vacant building at 26 Leslie Street in Campbell's Bay. That building will be renovated from April to July 2026 and will welcome students and staff later that summer.

Only light refurbishment will be required to prepare

McDowell's adult education wing for elementary school use. McDowell principal Grady Robson says the transition will allow Onslow students to continue learning without the pressure and noise of major construction taking place around them.

According to Mr. Robson, the process includes several steps. The school board has scheduled consultations in late November 2025 with the Parent Committee and the governing boards of Onslow Elementary, Pontiac Continuing Education Centre and Dr. S.E. McDowell. A broader public consultation is expected in December 2025 or January 2026, and the Council of Commissioners is slated to make its final decision on January 27, 2026.

Work at Onslow Elementary is scheduled to begin in August 2026 and continue until July 2027, with a return to the renovated school planned for August 2027.

Although Mr. Robson acknowledges it is difficult to see the adult education staff and learners leave McDowell, he says they will benefit from moving into a refreshed, dedicated space in Campbell's Bay.



Students from Onslow Elementary will temporarily be moved to Dr. S.E. McDowell Elementary for the 2026/2027 school year to allow for major repairs.

Species-at-risk permit for nuclear dump back before federal court

TASHI FARMILO
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

OTTAWA – A cold, wet November 12 didn't stop a crowd from gathering outside the Federal Court of Appeal to support a recent Federal Court decision that overturned a federal permit for habitat disruption at the proposed Chalk River nuclear-waste facility. Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL) and the federal government are appealing the ruling.

The demonstration took place as the Federal Court of Appeal was hearing CNL's appeal, drawing crowds to the courthouse while lawyers presented arguments inside. The overturned permit, issued by Environment Canada under the Species at Risk Act (SARA), would have allowed CNL

to carry out work needed to build a low-level radioactive-waste disposal facility near the Ottawa River. In its decision, the Federal Court found that the Minister had not shown that "all reasonable alternatives" to the proposed location were considered, as required under SARA. The matter was sent back to the Minister for reconsideration.

At the rally, Ole Hendrickson of the Concerned Citizens of Renfrew County and Area led participants in a call-and-response naming species potentially affected by the project, including the Blanding's Turtle, endangered bats and several migratory birds. Other speakers included Elder Shirley Tolley of the Algonquin Anishinabeg Nation Tribal Council, Kebaowek First Nation Councillor Justin Roy and former Sierra Club Canada president David Snider.

— "Nuclear dump" p. 15

Chatel — de la p.3

« Les enfants mangent mieux, les parents économisent, et les agriculteurs locaux obtiennent davantage de contrats. C'est gagnant pour tous. »

La couverture des soins dentaires s'est également élargie. « Vingt mille personnes dans ma circonscription ont maintenant accès à des soins dentaires », a-t-elle affirmé. « C'est un changement réel et concret. »

En ce qui concerne les emplois dans la fonction publique, dont dépendent de nombreux résidents du Pontiac, la députée Chatel a indiqué que le gouvernement souhaite éviter les compressions brusques. « La majorité des réductions d'effectifs se fera par des départs à la retraite anticipés. Ce sera fait avec soin et compassion. »

Le budget prévoit aussi des investissements dans les

outils numériques et l'intelligence artificielle afin d'améliorer les services publics, tout en soutenant les jeunes travailleurs et en modernisant les opérations.

Les dépenses en défense nationale, bien que moins visibles, pourraient profiter aux fabricants locaux. Des entreprises québécoises qui produisent des bottes, des drones ou d'autres technologies pourraient voir de nouvelles possibilités émerger. « La défense représente une économie importante », a souligné la députée Chatel. « Ce type d'investissement crée des emplois ici. »

Bien que les programmes et les fonds soient nationaux, la députée Chatel croit que le Pontiac est bien placé pour en profiter si ses communautés et entreprises sont prêtes. « Tout ce que contient ce budget figurait dans notre plateforme. Nous faisons ce que les Canadiens nous ont demandé », a-t-elle déclaré. « Maintenant, il suffit de livrer. »

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Le bureau de protection de la faune de Campbell's Bay menacé de fermeture

SOPHIE DEMERS

CAMPBELL'S BAY – Il y a quelques mois, M. Stéphane Carle, directeur général de la Protection de la faune du Québec, a tenu une réunion virtuelle avec les gestionnaires provinciaux pour annoncer que le ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs prévoyait fermer 40 % de ses bureaux de protection de la faune afin de réduire le nombre de bâtiments gouvernementaux et d'optimiser ses opérations.

Selon M. Martin Perreault, président provincial du syndicat des agents de protection de la faune du Québec, le syndicat a trouvé des documents datant de 2019 détaillant ce plan. « La Protection de la faune du Québec travaille, en secret, sur un plan de fermeture depuis 2019, et la pandémie de 2020 n'a fait que ralentir le processus. Nous avons obtenu un document de l'employeur qui montre clairement ce plan, et la fermeture de 40 % des bureaux y apparaît très clairement », affirme M. Perreault.

Le Ministère assure qu'il n'y aura aucune interruption de service et qu'il tient compte des besoins en protection de la faune et des défis de recrutement afin d'assurer une couverture optimale. « Des discussions sont en cours concernant l'optimisation des opérations, l'utilisation des ressources

gouvernementales et une meilleure répartition sur le territoire. Nous n'avons pas d'information supplémentaire pour le moment », a indiqué un porte-parole.

« Toute fermeture de bureau est regrettable. Les conséquences seront un manque de services pour les citoyens et une couverture territoriale réduite. Lorsque le bureau de Rapides-des-Joachims a fermé, les autorités et la population avaient été rassurées que celui de Campbell's Bay prendrait la relève », rappelle M. Perreault.

Le syndicat souligne que, ces dernières années, l'activité du bureau a été limitée. Aucun poste n'a été ouvert depuis près de cinq ans et le dernier agent a quitté il y a deux ans. « Ils le laissent mourir à petit feu, volontairement. »

Le Ministère affirme que les autres bureaux pourront assumer les responsabilités de celui de Campbell's Bay sans interruption. Le syndicat n'est pas d'accord : les opérations planifiées pourraient être prises en charge ailleurs, mais le travail quotidien — traitement des plaintes, patrouilles et autres activités — exige un agent sur place.

Selon le syndicat, aucune date n'a encore été fixée pour la fermeture, mais ces fermetures coïncident généralement avec la fin du bail, soit le 1er mars 2026. Le syndicat demeure inquiet pour l'avenir du service régional ici.

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Sophie Chatel breaks down what the federal budget means for the Pontiac

TASHI FARMILO
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

MRC PONTIAC – Canada's 2025 federal budget, tabled November 4, arrived during a time of rising costs, slow growth and renewed global trade tensions. For Sophie Chatel, Pontiac MP, the national plan holds significant local potential.

"This budget is about building," said Chatel. "We're investing in infrastructure, homes, people, and doing it in a way that strengthens Canadian communities."

One of the largest spending areas is housing: billions to build more homes, with a focus on affordability. Municipalities that present ready-to-go projects with essential services like water and sewer can access support. Pontiac towns, often limited by aging infrastructure, could benefit directly.

"If you want more homes in rural areas, you need to invest in infrastructure in small municipalities," Chatel said. "They just don't have the fiscal capacity to do that alone. That's why we're also looking at prefab partnerships. Bringing in ready-to-assemble homes can speed things up and make housing more affordable."

Clean energy projects are also a focus. Local solar initiatives, such as those promot-

ed by the MRC, may qualify under new federal investment programs. "There are massive investments coming in clean energy," said Chatel. "If we can bring prefab homes powered by solar to rural areas, we'll do it."

The budget prioritizes Canadian-made products, including lumber from local mills, which have been hit by ongoing softwood tariffs. "Everything we build will use Canadian wood, steel, and workers," she said.

To support local food production, the budget includes a "super tax deduction" that lets businesses fully expense the cost of machinery and expansion in the year they invest.

"I bought a jar of pickles the other day. The cucumbers were grown in Ontario, but they were processed and packaged in Germany," Chatel said. "By manufacturing these foods ourselves, we create jobs and keep more value here in Canada," she added, pointing to Pontiac's dairy and grain processors as examples of businesses ready to grow. "They just need the tools to make it viable, and this measure helps by cutting the upfront cost of scaling up," she said.

To help with rising household costs, the budget lowers the lowest federal income tax rate from 15 to 14%. The change is

expected to save a two-income household up to \$840 per year. "It's a way to help people deal with food prices and the rising cost of living," said Chatel.

School meals are also part of the plan. The national food program will provide healthy lunches in participating schools. Chatel expects most Pontiac schools to qualify. "Kids will get healthy meals; parents save money; and local farmers get more business. It's a win-win and it's a full-circle benefit."

Dental care coverage has also expanded. "20,000 people in my riding now have access to dental care," she said. "That's a real, tangible change."

On public service jobs, which many Pontiac residents rely on, Chatel said the government is avoiding harsh cuts. "Most workforce reduction will come through early

retirement. It will be done with care and compassion."

The budget includes investments in digital tools and AI to improve public service delivery, while supporting younger workers and modernizing operations.

National defence spending, though less visible, could benefit local manufacturers. Companies in Quebec that produce boots, drones or other tech components may see new opportunities. "Defence is a big economy," said Chatel. "That kind of investment creates jobs here."

While the programs and funding are national, Chatel believes Pontiac is well positioned to take part if its communities and businesses are ready. "Everything in the budget was in our platform. We're doing what Canadians asked us to do," she said. "Now we just need to deliver."

NEW SURGEON FOR SHAWVILLE HOSPITAL

Pontiac Community Hospital has welcomed a new surgeon, Dr. Mathieu Lacroix, ensuring the hospital will maintain its status as a trauma centre.

Full story at www.pontiacjournal.com.
(Submitted)



Bill 2 — from p.2

It urged physicians to fully understand Bill 2 before making any decisions. The government added that it's maintaining regular dialogue with CISSSO administrators and physicians to find lasting solutions. Recent webinars were held to address concerns, and Minister Sonia Bédanger visited the region on November 10 to meet directly with community groups.

André Fortin, Pontiac MNA, warned the region cannot lose any more doctors. "This law is counterproductive. It's not improving access to care—if anything, it's doing the opposite," Fortin said. "The government is blaming doctors for its own failures. Every time we lose a family physician, more than a thousand patients lose their doctor. Every time we lose a specialist, surgeries get delayed. It will take decades to rebuild what the CAQ is destroying in the Outaouais."



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BP

ALLEYN-ET-CAWOOD — Soldiers from the Romeo Company 3rd Battalion RCR guard the cenotaph during the Danford Lake ceremony.



DP

BRISTOL — Mayor Valerie Twolan-Graham lays a wreath on behalf of the municipality.



CW

MRC PONTIAC — Members of the Pontiac Legion and the Renfrew Cadet Corp "troop the colours" to begin the ceremony.



PS

PEMBROKE — Legion member Stan Halliday pins a poppy on Mayor Ron Gervais.



PSC

FORT-COULONGE — L'adjutant Jean-Philippe Jones et Pierre Bourassa, membre à la retraite des Forces d'opérations spéciales, saluent les soldats tombés au champ d'honneur.



PS

L'ISLE-AUX-ALLUMETTES — Mayor Corey Spence places a wreath at the St. Joseph Cenotaph.

N'oublions jamais 11.11.2025 *Lest we forget*



OTTER LAKE — Wreaths adorn the cenotaph at Otter Lake.



PORTAGE-DU-FORT — Pontiac Legion President Ron Woodstock and Sailor First Class Jacob Thompson lay a wreath.



SHAWVILLE — Corporal Hill of the 3rd Battalion RCR serves in the honour guard during the ceremony.



SEENBORO — Linda Boisvert places a wreath in memory of the Selkirk family.



QUYON — L'agente de la GRC Tyler Brady et le 2e vice-président de la Légion de Quyon, Greg Devine, déposent une couronne au nom des anciens combattants de la guerre de Corée.



THORNE — A lone sailor guards the cenotaph at the ceremony in Ladysmith as Councillor David Berry lays the first wreath.

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Samonix salmon farm still awaiting key approvals



Sophie Demers
LJI Reporter

Samonix, a salmon farm slated for the Pontiac Industrial Park, is still waiting on approvals from Hydro Quebec and Quebec's Environment Ministry's Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement.

According to Rémi Bertrand, Samonix' senior director of project development, they're hoping for answers in the next few weeks. Samonix may then be able to make important announcements about the project. The project isn't asking for any special considerations and is working within the parameters set by the provincial government.

The salmon farm construction, which requires between 80 and 100 acres of land, will include a water treatment facility and a 13-acre main building where about 12,000 metric tons of salmon will be farmed annually. Samonix aims to be the largest producer of Atlantic salmon in land-based aquaculture facilities in Eastern Canada, marketing to local and international markets.

The company will use



The salmon will be raised in pools like this Eastern Township trout farm operation.

PHOTO: LILY RYAN

innovative technology to farm salmon in large pools. A Recirculating Aquaculture System (RAS) will recirculate water using an advanced filtration and water treatment system to ensure it's free of contaminants or bacteria.

Samonix is a majority Outaouais company that solicited expert partners to work on the project: Smart Salmon, a Norwegian company with expertise in salmon raising; Smogenlax, a Swedish company specializing in the water

treatment system they'll use; and Aquamaof, an Israeli company specializing in the technology needed for the operation.

"Quebec's goal of producing as close to a hundred percent of food within the province includes this type of fresh-water safe fish farms," explains one investor.

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TOLLER SWORN IN FOR THIRD TERM AS PONTIAC WARDEN

Jane Toller was sworn in for a third term as MRC Pontiac warden on November 13. Read the full story at www.pontiacjournal.com.

-Cathy Fox

Nuclear dump — from p. 7



Demonstrators stand outside the Federal Court of Appeal on November 12 during the hearing of CNL's appeal of a decision that struck down the Species at Risk permit for the Chalk River nuclear waste-disposal project.

Environmental groups argue the ruling strengthens how species-at-risk protections must be applied in federal permitting. They say the project threatens sensitive habitat on unceded Algonquin territory and puts drinking-water sources at risk.

CNL, meanwhile, maintains that the Near Surface Disposal Facility is essential for managing Canada's legacy low-level radioactive waste. The proposed facility is designed to contain up to one million cubic metres of waste from decommissioned buildings and cleanup activities at the Chalk River site. The organization says the project has undergone extensive review and includes engineered liners, drainage systems, waste-water treatment, and long-term monitoring.

CNL also points to more than 1,000 hours of field-work documenting wildlife on the property and notes that construction would be scheduled outside bird-nesting and bat-roosting periods. The company argues the footprint represents a small portion of the overall Chalk River property.

Opponents, including several Algonquin First Nations, the Sierra Club Canada, the Canadian Coalition for Nuclear Responsibility and the Concerned Citizens of Renfrew County and Area, say the consultation process was inadequate and that key long-term safety and environmental concerns remain unresolved.

As the appeal proceeds, no official date has yet been announced for the Federal Court of Appeal's judgement.

Loi 2 — de la p.6

M. Pigeon a repris ces préoccupations et accusé le premier ministre François Legault et le ministre de la Santé Christian Dubé d'avoir transformé la crise en affrontement politique. « Ils ont fait des médecins les boucs émissaires de leurs propres échecs », a affirmé M. Pigeon. « Au lieu d'écouter, ils blâment ceux qui tentent de maintenir le système en vie. »

Dans un message public, Santé Québec, la nouvelle agence responsable des opérations du réseau, a reconnu que la loi a suscité de l'anxiété dans certaines régions et détérioré les milieux de travail. L'agence affirme vouloir assurer la continuité des services et réduire les impacts pour les patients. Le CISSSO a refusé de commenter.

M. Dubé, parrain du projet de loi 2, a annoncé que le gouvernement suspend deux des dispositions les plus controversées : celle qui liait la rémunération aux cibles d'accès et celle qui obligeait les médecins à demander la permission avant de travailler à l'extérieur du réseau public. Il a décrit ce changement comme un geste visant à rouvrir

le dialogue avec la communauté médicale. Le ministère de la Santé a déclaré surveiller de près la situation en Outaouais et a souligné qu'il existe une différence entre exprimer l'intention de démissionner et démissionner réellement. Il a exhorté les médecins à bien comprendre le projet de loi 2 avant de prendre une décision. Le gouvernement ajoute maintenir un dialogue constant avec les administrateurs du CISSSO et les médecins afin de trouver des solutions durables. Des webinaires ont récemment eu lieu pour répondre aux préoccupations, et la ministre Sonia Bélanger a visité la région le 10 novembre pour rencontrer directement les groupes communautaires. Le député de Pontiac, M. André Fortin, a averti que la région ne peut perdre d'autres médecins. « Cette loi est contre-productive. Elle n'améliore pas l'accès aux soins ; au contraire, elle fait le contraire », a déclaré M. Fortin. « Le gouvernement blâme les médecins pour ses propres échecs. Chaque fois que nous perdons un médecin de famille, plus de mille patients perdent leur médecin. Chaque fois que nous perdons un spécialiste, des chirurgies sont retardées. »



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Black Friday

DEALS



LA VIE EN ROSE OPENS AT PEMBROKE MALL

The Pembroke Mall welcomed its newest retailer on Friday, October 24, with an official ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by mall management, the Mayor of Pembroke and La Vie en Rose staff.

The specialty shop offers ladies’ lingerie, sleepwear, loungewear and beachwear, providing a wide selection for customers. Men shopping for gifts for their partners are also welcome, with the store’s knowledgeable staff ready to guide them to the right choice.

Shoppers lined the mall corridor before opening, eager to take advantage of special promotions and opening-day deals. The company, based in Montreal, operates more than 287 stores across Canada under two distinct brands.

PHOTO: La Vie en Rose’s grand opening featured City of Pembroke Mayor Ron Gervais, Economic Development representatives, Pembroke Mall management and store manager Stephanie Poulin with staff.



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AT PEMBROKE MALL



LIONS DONATE \$500 TO SCHOOL NUTRITION INITIATIVE

The Chapeau and District Lions Club donated \$500 to Dr. Wilbert Keon School on October 27 to support its nutrition program. Principal Allison McLaughlin said classrooms receive fresh fruit and granola bars each Monday to ensure students have healthy snacks. The elementary section also offers free milk each week, and Bouffe Pontiac recently provided frozen meals for students needing support. The donation will help the local school continue meeting students’ basic needs.

-Peter L. Smith

PHOTO: Lions Club President David Brisard presents the cheque to Principal Allison McLaughlin and students.

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VICTORIAN SWEET MARKS 29 YEARS IN STYLE

Victorian Sweet ladies' fashions in Pembroke marked its 29th anniversary with a well-attended storewide sale the weekend of November 15-16. Owner Maurene Stencil, known for her keen understanding of her customers' style preferences, welcomed a steady flow of shoppers looking for new outfits and accessories for the upcoming holiday season. Along with dressier pieces, the shop also offers a full selection of casual fashions, ensuring customers can find comfortable looks without sacrificing style.

The store features well-known brands such as Joseph Ribkoff, Dolcezza, Foxcroft and Bueno, giving Stencil access to a wide range of high-quality options suited to many tastes. Victorian Sweet also caters to men with its line of Au Noir clothing, offering suits, shirts and casual wear for customers seeking polished and contemporary styles.

-Peter L. Smith



PS

PHOTO: Store owner Maurene Stencil shows off some of her fashions during the anniversary sale.

FRIDAY NOV 28

Two big events lighting up Downtown Pembroke!

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Santa Claus PARADE





PEMBROKE SANTA CLAUS PARADE REGISTRATION OPENS

The theme for the 2025 Santa Claus Parade of Lights is “Jingle Bell Rock – One Night Only: Santa’s Greatest Hits.” The parade takes place Saturday, November 29, beginning at Moncion Metro at 5:30 pm and travelling along Main Street, where families will gather to catch a glimpse of Santa and his reindeer. Recreation Programmer Megan Kadlec says float ideas are limitless and encourages participants to embrace music, lights and festive creativity. Businesses, community groups and individuals are welcome to register, and Pontiac families often join the fun each year. To register a float, fill out the form at pembroke.ca/santaparade2025, email recreation@pembroke.ca, or call 613-735-6821 ext. 1501 for more information. *-Peter L. Smith*

PHOTO: Last year’s parade drew large crowds along Main Street as illuminated floats passed by.



SANTA CLAUS PARADE JINGLE BELL ROCK

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Free for the public to attend.
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Get ready FOR WINTER





CHAPEAU LIONS CLUB SUPPORT GENERATOR PROJECT

The Chapeau and District Lions Club has donated \$25,000 to the Harrington Community Centre toward the purchase and installation of a generator that will serve both the community hall and the Upper Pontiac Sports Complex. The committee has raised \$72,930 to date, while the generator itself costs more than \$90,000.

The Harrington Community Centre group includes members from the Chapeau and District Lions Club, the Chapeau Agricultural Society, the Chapeau Young at Heart Club, the Chapeau Recreation Association and the Upper Pontiac Sports Complex. All contribute annually to the centre’s upkeep, and fundraising is ongoing. The municipalities of L’Isle-aux-Allumettes and Chichester also provide yearly financial support. *-Peter L. Smith*

PHOTO: Members of the Chapeau and District Lions Club, partner organizations and special guest Kim Sheldrick, 1st Vice District Governor, present the \$25,000 donation.



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Get ready FOR WINTER

FIRST BUCK, FULL FREEZER

Jayven St. Cyr bagged his first buck providing meat for the winter season. (Submitted)

UPPER PONTIAC SPORTS COMPLEX READY FOR BUSY SEASON

The Upper Pontiac Sports Complex is gearing up for a full 2025–2026 winter season. Free skating takes place every Friday from 6:30 pm to 7:45 pm, sponsored weekly by local individuals and businesses.

Open skating runs Wednesdays from 6 pm to 8 pm, with admission set at \$1 for children and \$2 for adults. The adult hockey league plays Mondays and Thursdays, while Chapeau Minor Hockey uses the arena each Saturday from 9 am to 1 pm.

The Wrangler Café, operated by volunteer students from Dr. Wilbert Keon School, offers food and beverages to visitors.

The complex, operating for more than 40 years, is managed by a volunteer board. The municipalities of Chichester, Sheenboro, Waltham and L'Isle-aux-Allumettes, along with the Caisse populaire des Rivières de Pontiac (Chapeau), provide annual financial support. Ice rentals are available by contacting Jean Marc Chartrand at 613-312-0258.

-Peter L. Smith

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Get ready FOR WINTER



Do you need studded tires?

Winter driving presents its own set of challenges, including sudden snowstorms and rapid temperature drops. These variable and extreme weather conditions can affect your car's grip on the road and increase your braking distance. Studded tires, which differ from conventional winter tires, can enhance your safety on icy roads. But do you really need them? Here's a look.

How they work

Studded tires contain small metal studs designed to grip icy surfaces. Although they're more expensive than traditional winter tires, they offer significant benefits when used under the right conditions.

Benefits

On icy roads, including treacherous black ice, studded tires provide unmatched grip, significantly reducing your braking distance. For example, after freezing rain, they make short work of steep slopes. Additionally, studded tires greatly improve your traction on packed snow, making them ideal for rural areas.

Drawbacks

If you drive on dry asphalt, studded tires can be noisy, which might be distracting. You may also find your



braking distance increases on this type of surface.

Ultimately, whether you need studded tires depends on your location and driving conditions. If you live in a remote area with poorly maintained and uneven roads, studded tires would certainly be useful. On the other hand, if you live in a city where roads are typically clearer, you may not see much advantage. If you're still uncertain, consult your local tire dealer for personalized advice.

What should you check on your vehicle before winter?

The cold weather is gradually setting in. Are you wondering if your car is ready to face another winter? Here's a checklist of items to examine so your vehicle remains in top condition.

Fluids

Start by checking the levels and quality of your vehicle's fluids. Make sure your engine oil, transmission fluid, antifreeze, brake fluid and power steering fluid are all at the appropriate levels. Replace or top them up as necessary. Since winter driving often demands more windshield washer fluid than summer driving, keep an extra jug in your car to avoid running out.

Heating system

You can't get through winter without your car's heating system! Test how well your vehicle heats the passenger cabin and ensure the air vents aren't blocked. On cool mornings, don't forget to turn on the defroster to make sure your windows clear quickly.

Other components

To keep safe, check other key components, including your winter tires, windshield wipers, drive belts, brakes, alternator and battery. Look for signs of exterior wear, such as scratches, rust or

damage. Also, verify that your turn signals and headlights are functioning properly to avoid possible fines.

Finally, remember that winter driving can be challenging! Be prepared for anything by keeping an

emergency kit in your trunk that includes a shovel, traction pads and other essentials.



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GUEST COLUMNIST

Valentina
CANALES BURKE

A Pontiac voice among the world's decision-makers

In mid-October, I had the chance to represent Canadian youth through a Young Diplomats of Canada delegation at the 2025 World Bank Group–International Monetary Fund (IMF) Annual Meetings in Washington, D.C. Each year, these two institutions bring together global leaders to discuss how to strengthen economies and reduce poverty worldwide. The World Bank funds infrastructure projects like roads and schools, while the IMF helps countries manage financial challenges.

Between rushing through D.C. traffic from one session to the next, I found myself surrounded by people shaping the world's economic agenda. Yet, despite the international

scale of the conversations, my thoughts often turned to home. Growing up in the Pontiac taught me that resources, geography and connectivity shape opportunity, a lesson I kept in mind as leaders discussed global rural realities.

Many sessions focused on how Artificial Intelligence and digital technologies are transforming development, creating new opportunities for growth and innovation. Yet what stood out to me was how rarely the conversation acknowledged the growing gap for those without access. For all the talk of progress, rural realities were often missing from the picture.

One exception was Farm Radio International, a Canadian organization that uses radio to share practical, locally relevant information with farmers in their native languages. Their approach of meeting people where they are was a refreshing reminder that innovation doesn't have to mean high-tech. It means inclusion. Hearing about their work, I couldn't help but think of the Pontiac, where access to reliable internet and services remains a challenge. True progress, I realized, depends on designing solutions that reflect the realities of the people they're meant to serve.

While the panels offered plenty of insights, the moments that stayed with me most came between the formal discussions: over coffee, between sessions, or while waiting in



Valentina Canales Burke visits the International Monetary Fund headquarters in Washington, D.C. (Photo: Submitted)

security lines. Casual conversations with diplomats, economists, and other young delegates reminded me that policymaking is ultimately about people. Many took a few minutes to share advice and answer questions, showing that genuine connection still drives meaningful change. In a week filled with high-level discussions, it was these human exchanges that reminded me how curiosity and collaboration can bridge even the widest gaps.

Leaving D.C.'s streets and returning to Ottawa traffic, I felt proud to have carried a small piece of the Pontiac to an international stage and to return with new ideas about how global cooperation can benefit communities like ours. I'm deeply grateful to the *Pontiac Journal* for supporting my trip to Washington. Of the many potential sponsors I contacted, the *Journal* was the only local organization that offered support. Your encouragement helped me represent our community abroad and reminded me that meaningful diplomacy begins right here at home.

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REMERCIEMENTS au Sacré-Coeur de Jésus pour faveur obtenue. Que le Sacré-Coeur de Jésus soit loué, adoré et glorifié à travers le monde pour des siècles et des siècles. Amen. Dites cette prière 6 fois par jour pendant 9 jours et vos prières seront exaucées même si cela vous semble impossible. N'oubliez pas de remercier le Sacré-Coeur avec promesse de publication quand la faveur sera obtenue. CB

PUBLIC NOTICE

AVIS D'INTENTION DE DISSOLUTION - Prenez avis que la personne moral "Forêt de l'Isle", ayant son siège social au 91 ch M, Chapeau (Québec) J0X1M0, demandera au Registraire des Entreprises du Québec la permission de se dissoudre. Signé à Chapeau, ce 4 jour de Novembre. Cameron Smith, président.

UPCOMING EVENTS

JAMIESON TRAVEL & TOURS – Upcoming 2026 tours. **ALASKA/ YUKON** Land and Cruise June 10-26, **NEWFOUNDLAND** – Journey to the Rock: June 15-23, The **GASPE**: July 3-8, The **EAST COAST** – PEI, Halifax, St. Andrews by the Sea: Aug. 11-20, **IRELAND** – Sept. 21-Oct. 4 and more! Visi www.jamiesontravel.com 613.582.7011. TICO#50013556.

ÉVÉNEMENT

Dimanche 30 Nov. Collecte de fonds annuelle de Noël de la 'CWL' de la paroisse Ste-Anne, Marché artisanal avec 16 vendeurs, vente de pâtisseries, tirages spéciaux, Petit-déjeuner - 9h00 à 14h00, Salle municipale, 8 Montée Msgr Martel, Île-du-Grand-Calumet, QC. Un don

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SECTION I – Avis
Avis est donné à STEPHANIE KATHLEEN DEPASS ET ALFONZO JAMES STEWART de vous présenter au Greffe de la Cour Supérieure du district de Campbell's Bay situé au 30 rue John à Campbell's Bay, JOX 1K0 dans les 30 jours afin de recevoir Le préavis d'exercice d'exécution d'un droit hypothécaire qui y a été laissée à votre attention.
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SECTION II – Informations relative à la publication:
Le présent avis est publié au terme d'une ordonnance rendue le 13 novembre 2025 par Julien Siemin, greffier pour la Cour Supérieure de Gatineau, dans le dossier 555-02-000243-252
Il ne sera pas publié à nouveau, à moins que les circonstances ne l'exigent.
SECTION III – Informations finales
Gatineau, 14 novembre 2025
Pascal Montpetit, Huissier de justice
Paradis Montpetit Beauchamp

OBITUARY



MONTGOMERY, Jean

June 3, 1931 – November 1, 2025

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of Jean Montgomery on November 1, 2025, a lifelong resident of Allumette Island, at the age of 94. Born on June 3, 1931, on Allumette Island, Quebec, Jean embodied the warmth, resilience, and grace of her Island home.
Her life was a testament to strength and unwavering devotion—to her family, her beliefs, and her garden. The fourth child of Flora Chartrand and Tom Montgomery, Jean was predeceased by her brothers Eddy, Earl, and Dennis, and her sister Ethel (Jones). Though she traveled extensively throughout her life, she never strayed far from her beloved home on Allumette Island. She was also predeceased by her first husband, Bob Munro, and her second husband, Brian Berrigan. Jean is survived by her children with Bob Munro: Dave(Patricia), Colleen(Alan), Maureen(James), and James(Sara); her grandchildren: Jamin and Dakota (children of Maureen), Brandon, Avery (children of Dan), and Rachel (child of David); and her great-grandchildren including Kennedy, Harlyn, Makenna, and Scottie, who will carry forward her legacy of love and kindness. She was predeceased by her son, Dan Munro. After working 35 years in Pembroke Jean retired in her mid-50s, allowing her to pursue her passions for travel and gardening. She visited Europe, Africa, and Asia many times with her second husband, returning home with a broader perspective. She built a home on her cottage lot and spent most of her life tending her garden and enjoying the bay. Jean continued walking and kayaking until very recently, often leading others to discover the quiet beauty of the river. She will be remembered for her vibrant spirit, her cooking, her garden, and the way she made everyone feel welcome. Whether through her involvement in local events, her generous hospitality, or heartfelt conversations over cards and games, Jean touched countless lives with her warmth and charm. She invited many to visit her home and garden and was always willing to share a plant. A Funeral Mass will be held at St. Alphonsus Church in Chapeau on Thursday, November 27th, 2025 at 11 a.m. followed by interment at St. Alphonsus Cemetery on Pembroke Road (Marion's Corner). Friends and family are invited to gather in celebration of Jean's life at Harrington Hall in Chapeau, Quebec, following the burial. In lieu of flowers, plant a garden in Jean's honor—reflecting her lifelong commitment to gardening. She always preferred perennial flowers.



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AVIS est par la présente donné que l'état financier et le rapport du vérificateur externe pour l'année 2024-2025 seront soumis au conseil des commissaires de la Commission scolaire Western Québec lors de sa séance ordinaire, tenue le 25 novembre 2025 à 18 h 30, au centre administratif de la Commission scolaire Western Québec, 15 rue Katimavik, Gatineau.
Donné à Gatineau, Québec, le 12 novembre 2025
Eldon Keon, secrétaire général

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the financial statements and the external auditor's report for the 2024-2025 year will be submitted to the Council of Commissioners of the Western Québec School Board at its regular meeting to be held on November 25, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. at the offices of the Western Québec School Board, 15 Katimavik Street, Gatineau.
Given at Gatineau, Québec, November 12, 2025
Eldon Keon, Secretary General

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