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MANSFIELD EN FÊTE INITIE L'ÉTÉ



Un joueur s'élance le long des sentiers entre les buts lors du tournoi de balle lente de Mansfield en Fête, au parc Amyotte, le samedi 27 juin.

MANSFIELD - Joueurs de balle, musiciens et familles se sont réunis au parc Amyotte du 26 au 28 juin à l'occasion du retour de Mansfield en Fête, une fin de semaine de balle lente, de spectacles, d'activités pour les enfants et d'activités de financement au profit du Service d'incendie de Mansfield.

Le festival gratuit proposait un tournoi de balle lente tout au long de la fin de semaine, du bingo, un service de cantine, un feu d'artifice ainsi que des prestations de Rosalie et Conrad Denault, accompagnés de l'invité Pierre Graveline, des élèves en musique de l'ESSC, de René Bertrand, Micheala Cahill, Mish Mash et Quite the Crew, suivies d'une soirée animée par DJ Zabella. Les familles ont également profité de jeux gonflables, de la visite des personnages de la Pat' Patrouille, d'un kiosque de mèches colorées et des démonstrations des pompiers avant que le festival ne se termine dimanche avec les finales du tournoi. L'événement annuel était coordonné par le comité bénévole organisateur de Mansfield en Fête, dirigé par Jacques Fortin.

- WILLIAM DALE

THORNE CELEBRATES CANADA DAY, LAUNCHES FARMERS MARKET

THORNE - Residents gathered at the municipal grounds in Ladysmith on Saturday, June 27, for an early Canada Day celebration and the soft opening of a new farmers market. Organizer Terri-Lyn Blaskie said the market grew out of the community's existing flea market and her own flower farming business, Pontiac Gardens. Vendors offered flowers, vegetables, plants and handmade goods, with plans to expand into a regular market for local producers, bakers and artisans.

The celebration also raised funds for community groups. The local preparation committee hosted a barbecue and canteen, sponsored by B&B Snow, while the Thorne fire department held an open house with a dunk tank and ice cream sales. Families enjoyed bouncy castles, cotton candy, children's games, a tattoo station and a raffle. Country musician Danny Sylvester, originally from Ladysmith, entertained the crowd under the main tent during the afternoon. Organizers credited volunteers, local businesses, residents and the Municipality of Thorne for helping make the event possible.

- WILLIAM DALE



Country musician Danny Sylvester performs under the main tent during Thorne's Canada Day celebration and the soft opening of the community's new farmers market on Saturday, June 27.

À L'INTÉRIEUR INSIDE



Destination Pontiac

Voir/see pgs. 8-15

**Réunion de la MRC :
pont Bois-Franc,
budget du PPJ**
MRC meeting:
Bois-Franc bridge,
PPJ budget

Voir/see pgs. 2-3

**Portage hires
Fernand Roy**

See pg. 18

**Introducing Santé
Quebec Outaouais**

See pg. 27

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Élite

MRC Meeting

Bois-Franc bridge contract, PPJ budget top MRC agenda

BONNIE PORTELANCE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

MRC PONTIAC – The Council of Mayors met June 18 at the MRC headquarters in Litchfield, announcing a contract for the bridge construction at the Chemin du Bois-Franc washout, approving funding for firefighter training equipment and several economic development initiatives, and adopting the 2026 budget for the PPJ trail.

Chemin du Bois-Franc bridge contract

MRC Director of Land Use Planning and Environment Jason Durand announced that Constructions DOMI Inc. of Dolbeau-Mistassini has been awarded the contract to replace the bridge at the kilometre 54 washout on Chemin du Bois-Franc. The company was the lowest bidder.

The contract marks another step toward restoring access along the important forestry road after heavy rain and spring runoff washed out the road at kilometre 54.8 in April.

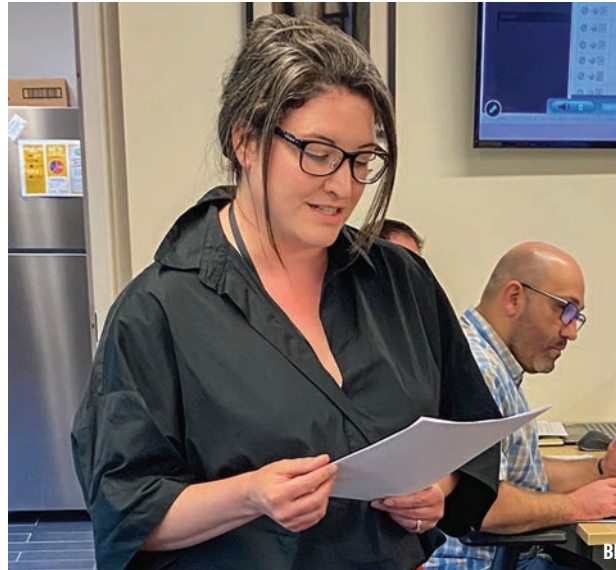
Durand said engineering plans were expected to be completed the week of June 22 before being submitted to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forests for review. Once approved, the contractor will order materials, although delays in obtaining steel H-beams among other items remain possible.

Durand said it is still too early to estimate when the bridge will open because several factors remain outside the MRC's control. While the MRC expects to contribute about 10 per cent of the project cost, it has not yet been advised how much funding the provincial government will provide. Despite those uncertainties, Durand said the project continues to move in the right direction. "It's looking good and we shouldn't be worried about it," he added.

Council also approved a contract worth up to \$106,666.67, plus taxes, for repairs to two forestry bridge decks and resurfacing work on Chemin du Dix-Milles in Rapides-des-Joachims. Seventy-five per cent of the project will be funded through Quebec's Sustainable Forest Development Program (PADF), with the remainder coming from the MRC's TNO road budget.

Firefighting equipment for school programs

Council approved a \$100,800 project, funded through the FRR3 Vitalization Fund, to purchase equipment for the MRC's



Socio-economic Development Coordinator Sabrina Ayres presents the 2026 PPJ budget.

school-based firefighter training program at Pontiac High School (PHS) and École secondaire Sieur-de-Coulonge (ESSC).

The funding will be used to purchase properly sized personal protective equipment (PPE), including bunker suits, boots, gloves and other training equipment. Public Security Manager Julien Gagnon said the purchases will reduce the need to borrow equipment from local fire departments while ensuring students have gear that fits properly.

The program, launched at ESSC in 2023 and expanded to PHS in 2025, introduces students to the fire service while helping municipalities address long-term firefighter recruitment.

PPJ budget approved

Council adopted a \$371,920 budget for the Cycloparc PPJ, with funding supporting regular maintenance, infrastructure improvements, signage and continued development of the regional trail.

The budget includes \$85,000 from the Regions and



LA TRADITION EST MAINTENUE À FORT-COULONGE

Entre 400 et 450 personnes se sont réunies au local des Chevaliers de Colomb de Fort-Coulonge le 21 juin à l'occasion du Souper traditionnel du Bazar, une tradition qui rassemble la communauté depuis des décennies. Le Grand Chevalier Gilles Dionne a indiqué qu'environ 25 bénévoles ont travaillé en cuisine, tandis que près de 75 personnes ont participé à l'organisation de l'activité tout au long de la semaine et de la fin de semaine. Les convives ont dégusté un repas composé de cipaille, de fèves au lard et de tartes maison, servi en salle et pour emporter. Selon M. Dionne, le service pour emporter est demeuré très achalandé tout au long de l'après-midi.

Si les activités extérieures se limitaient principalement au bingo cette année, les organisateurs espèrent en ajouter davantage lors des prochaines éditions, notamment des activités familiales, à mesure que le nombre de bénévoles augmentera. Les profits de l'activité servent à soutenir les initiatives communautaires des Chevaliers de Colomb.

-William Dale (Trad. JP)

PHOTO : La bénévole Karen Asselin sert des assiettes de cipaille lors du Souper traditionnel du Bazar des Chevaliers de Colomb de Fort-Coulonge, le 21 juin.

Rurality Fund (FRR2), \$135,000 from the Véloce III program and \$50,000 from the municipal shares, with additional FRR2 funding covering costs not eligible under Véloce III.

The resolution prompted discussion about the value of the investment.

— "MRC" p. 33

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Réunion de la MRC

Contrat pour le pont du chemin du Bois-Franc et budget du Cycloparc PPJ

BONNIE PORTELANCE

MRC PONTIAC – Réunis le 18 juin au siège social de la MRC à Litchfield, les maires ont fait le point sur le remplacement du pont au kilomètre 54 du chemin du Bois-Franc, financé le programme de formation des pompiers, adopté le budget 2026 du Cycloparc PPJ et autorisé plusieurs projets de développement économique.

Pont du chemin du Bois-Franc

Le contrat pour le remplacement du pont au kilomètre 54 du chemin Bois-Franc a été accordé à Constructions DOMI inc., de Dolbeau-Mistassini, le plus bas soumissionnaire. Le projet rétablira l'accès à la route, emportée au kilomètre 54,8 par les fortes pluies et la fonte printanière en avril.

Le directeur de l'Aménagement du territoire et de l'Environnement, Jason Durand, a indiqué que les plans d'ingénierie devaient être achevés durant la semaine du 22 juin avant d'être soumis au ministère des Ressources naturelles et des Forêts. Une fois approuvés, l'entrepreneur pourra commander les matériaux. La date de réouverture demeure inconnue.

« Ça regarde bien et on ne devrait pas s'inquiéter », a affirmé M. Durand.

Les maires ont également accordé un contrat pouvant atteindre 106 666,67 \$, plus les taxes, pour la réfection de deux tabliers de ponts forestiers et des travaux de resurfaçage sur le chemin du Dix-Milles, à Rapides-des-Joachims. Le projet sera financé à 75 % par le Programme d'aménagement durable des forêts (PADF), le reste provenant du budget des chemins du TNO.

Formation des pompiers

Le conseil a approuvé un projet de 100 800 \$, financé par le Fonds régions et ruralité – Volet 3 (FRR3), pour l'achat d'équipement

destiné au programme de formation des pompiers de la Pontiac High School (PHS) et de l'École secondaire Sieur-de-Coulonge (ESSC).

Le financement servira à acquérir des équipements de protection individuelle, comme des habits de combat, des bottes et des gants. Le gestionnaire de la sécurité publique, Julien Gagnon, a indiqué que ces achats permettront de réduire le recours au matériel emprunté aux services d'incendie municipaux.

Lancé à l'ESSC en 2023 puis étendu à la PHS en 2025, le programme vise à faire connaître le métier de pompier tout en favorisant la relève dans les services incendie.

Budget du Cycloparc PPJ

Les maires ont adopté un budget de 371 920 \$ pour le Cycloparc PPJ pour l'entretien, les infrastructures, la signalisation et le développement du

parc linéaire.

Le financement comprend 85 000 \$ du Fonds régions et ruralité (FRR2), 135 000 \$ du programme Véloce III, 50 000 \$ provenant de la quote-part municipale ainsi que des sommes additionnelles du FRR2 pour les dépenses non admissibles au programme Véloce III.

Le maire de Thorne, Terry Murdock, a remis en question cet investissement et a suggéré d'envisager l'asphaltage du sentier.

La coordonnatrice en développement socioéconomique, Sabrina Ayres, a indiqué que de nouvelles statistiques sont en préparation, tandis que la directrice générale, Kim Lesage, a souligné que la fréquentation avait fortement augmenté depuis la pandémie.

La préfète Jane Toller a répondu que plusieurs clubs cyclistes préfèrent la surface actuelle en poussière de pierre. Elle a ajouté que, selon des estimations

réalisées il y a quelques années, l'asphaltage des 94 kilomètres du sentier coûterait environ 5 millions de dollars et qu'un revêtement asphalté exigerait éventuellement d'importants travaux d'entretien.

Développement économique

Les maires ont également autorisé plusieurs projets de développement économique et touristique.

La MRC a accordé un contrat de 35 046 \$ à la Coopérative Le Pic-Bois afin de réaliser une étude de faisabilité sur la restauration du sentier Castor Géant. Ce sentier d'environ 14 kilomètres relie Parc Leslie au Parc des Chutes Coulonge. Faute de financement pour son entretien à long terme, il a graduellement été abandonné. L'étude évaluera la restauration et la mise en valeur du sentier.

Une pourvoirie hors réseau recevra jusqu'à 50 000 \$ du Fonds régions et ruralité (FRR2) afin de remplacer son système énergétique actuel par une installation alimentée à l'énergie solaire avec stockage par batteries. — Suite en p. 18

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ÉDITORIAL

Diplômes en main, l'avenir en jeu

Au cours des dernières semaines, des centaines d'élèves du Pontiac, comme des milliers d'autres partout au Québec, ont célébré leur graduation aux côtés de leurs camarades, de leurs familles et de leurs enseignants. Toques, robes de bal et complets neufs étaient au rendez-vous pour marquer l'un des plus grands jalons de leur vie. Pourtant, malgré toute son importance, la graduation fait rarement les manchettes. On la célèbre à l'école, en famille et parfois dans toute une communauté, mais rarement comme le véritable événement régional qu'elle représente.

Environ 300 élèves fréquentent l'École secondaire Sieur-de-Coulonge et quelque 400 fréquentent Pontiac High School. Même si tous ne sont pas en Secondaire 5, ces chiffres donnent une idée de l'ampleur des cohortes qui passent par nos écoles. En quelques années seulement, des centaines de jeunes franchissent leurs portes. Aujourd'hui, plusieurs obtiennent leur diplôme et amorcent leur passage vers

la vie adulte.

En Outaouais, plus de 80 % des élèves obtiennent maintenant un diplôme ou une qualification du secondaire, une proportion qui continue d'augmenter. Dans le réseau public, ce taux est d'environ 70 %. Autrement dit, la majorité des élèves réussissent malgré les séquelles de la pandémie, les fermetures d'école, les défis liés à la santé mentale et le coût de la vie. Derrière chaque statistique se cache une histoire : celle d'un enseignant inspirant, d'un parent qui jongle avec les horaires ou d'un employeur qui adapte les quarts de travail d'un étudiant.

Nous consacrons beaucoup d'espace aux grands projets économiques, aux débats politiques et aux controverses du moment. Pendant ce temps, le passage à la vie adulte de toute une génération se résume souvent aux albums de finissants et aux réseaux sociaux. Pourtant, ce sont ces diplômées et diplômés qui feront fonctionner nos commerces, nos fermes et nos services publics. Ce sont



Dominique
BOMANS

ÉDITORIALISTE
EDITORIALIST

aussi eux que nous espérons convaincre de rester dans le Pontiac, ou d'y revenir, alors que la région est confrontée à une pénurie de main-d'œuvre et au vieillissement de sa population.

Reconnaître la graduation comme un événement régional, c'est regarder au-delà des photos de bal et se demander combien de ces jeunes pourront étudier, bâtir leur carrière et élever leur famille ici. C'est reconnaître que chaque diplôme obtenu est une victoire collective. C'est aussi se poser une question essentielle : que pouvons-nous faire, comme communauté, pour que le plus grand nombre possible revienne un jour contribuer à l'avenir du Pontiac?

En ce mois de juin, la plus grande nouvelle n'a peut-être pas été la plus bruyante. C'était peut-être celle des centaines de diplômées et diplômés qui écriront le prochain chapitre du Pontiac.

Diplomas in hand, the future at stake

next step toward adulthood.

In the Outaouais, more than 80 per cent of students now earn a secondary school diploma or qualification, a figure that has continued to climb in recent years. In the public school system, the rate is about 70 per cent. In other words, most students are making it to graduation despite pandemics, school closures, mental health challenges and the rising cost of living. Behind every statistic is a story: a teenager inspired by a dedicated teacher, a parent juggling work and family responsibilities, or an employer willing to adjust work schedules to help a student succeed.

We devote countless stories to major economic projects, political disputes and the controversies of the day. Meanwhile, an entire generation's transition into adulthood is largely confined to graduation albums and social media posts. Yet these graduates are the people who will one day run our businesses, work our farms and staff our public services. They are also the people we

hope to persuade to stay in, or return to, the Pontiac as the region grapples with labour shortages and a rapidly aging population.

Recognizing graduation as a regional event means looking beyond the prom photos to ask how many of these young people will be able to study, build careers and raise families here. It means acknowledging that, in a region where school dropout rates and the number of students leaving without a diploma remain higher than elsewhere in Quebec, every diploma earned is a collective victory. It also means asking a more difficult question: what can we do, as a community, to ensure that as many of these graduates as possible one day return to hang their names on the doors of Pontiac businesses, farms, schools and community organizations?

This June, the biggest story may not have been the loudest. It may have been the hundreds of graduates who will help write the Pontiac's next chapter.

(Trans. P.J.)

NOUVELLES SCOLAIRES – SCHOOL NEWS

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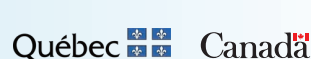
Promotion 2026 de l'ESSC - La messe de fin d'études de l'École secondaire Sieur-du-Coulonge a eu lieu le 26 juin à l'église Saint-Pierre, à Fort-Coulonge.

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LETTRES

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And just like that, it started

Maybe it's not grammatically correct, but "And just like that, it started." sets the stage for the fourth edition of the Shawville Fair writing contest. The competition challenges entrants in Class 6 to use that phrase as all or part of their opening sentence.

There are five other classes that participants can enter: Fiction, Non-fiction, Science Fiction/Fantasy, Opinion and Poetry. The cost of entry is covered by purchasing either a Pontiac Agricultural Society membership or a full weekend pass. Prize money is awarded in each class, along with a Best in Show prize of \$200, generously sponsored by the Western Quebec Literacy Council.

The goal of the writing competition is to give local writers an opportunity to showcase

their work. There are no age or language divisions; all entries are judged equally against others in their respective class. Our entrants have ranged in age from their mid-teens to well into their seventies, representing a wide variety of educational backgrounds and life experiences.

Further details and the competition rules can be found on the Shawville Fair website at www.shawvillefair.ca. See Section 3B of the Homecrafts Rulebook. I am also happy to answer questions via Facebook Messenger or by email at mccann.thomas.david@gmail.com.

Tom McCann,
 CLARENDON

Don't compare Quebec to MAGA

I would like to respond to Carl Hager's letter, "Political energy better spent elsewhere," published in the June 17 edition.

Upon waking on June 24, I sat down at the kitchen table and read the *Pontiac Journal*. A wave of outrage came over me as I read Mr. Hager's letter, pointedly published in the St-Jean edition of the paper. To draw a parallel between laws created to protect Québécois culture and language and the "Make America Great Again" movement is completely misguided.

He says these laws were enacted to "preserve the past," when that is the exact opposite of their intent. Québec has a long and nuanced history that I encourage him to explore. For generations, French Canadians were not only exploited by wealthy English business owners, who held nearly all the economic power, but were also forced to conduct business in a language that was not their own while the province's natural

resources were plundered. Historically, the Canadian military mistreated them and their language. The federal government sought to assimilate them.

I think Mr. Hager has forgotten the motto of la belle province — Je me souviens. These laws are about ensuring the survival of a language and culture, not the revisionist nostalgia playing out in the minds of certain Americans sporting red baseball hats. Do I agree with every aspect of these laws? No. But I do believe many of them are fundamentally necessary, or things will slide back to the way they once were.

Mr. Hager wonders why so much political energy is spent on this issue. The answer is simple: some people still don't get it.

Bonne St-Jean!
 Shawn Macmillan,
 LUSKVILLE

So, separation again, eh?

Twice during my 53 years in Quebec, we've endured the confidence-shaking test of a referendum on separation from Canada. Right now, it's the oil-drenched cowboys of Alberta who are seeking a better deal by threatening to leave, without actually going away.

This is not a good time to make such a bold move. Right now, Alberta's opportunity to export its petroleum wealth is better than ever, with the federal government leaning toward west coast pipelines to export oil to Asia. Right now, Alberta's independence would be tantamount to the province

becoming the 51st state. That would be a very bad move on Alberta's part.

But then, Alberta's separatist government forgot to consult First Nations, which hold significant power in the province. So it's not going to happen, but Alberta will whine its way to some concessions, much as Quebec whined its way around the Constitution with the neverendum game, assuming the right to suppress religious and linguistic minorities, with no one to tell it otherwise.

Alberta is better off within Canada, at least until there is regime change in the wannabe totalitarian government of the United States.

Robert Wills,
 SHAWVILLE AND THORNE

CORRECTION - In the article "SADC takes outreach into the community," published in the June 17 edition, three errors appeared. Blanche Pontiac was incorrectly identified as SADC Pontiac's "Business of the Year." The organization did not present a Business of the Year award; Blanche Pontiac and Justin O'Brien were featured in its annual report. In addition, Trefor Munn-Venn's name was incorrectly reported as Trevor Manvice. Finally, the woman identified in the photo cutline as Sarah Adam was, in fact, Ellen Boucher, chair of the SADC Pontiac board of directors. We apologize for these errors. *-The Editor*

Et tout à coup, ça a commencé

« Et tout à coup, ça a commencé. » N'est peut-être pas une tournure grammaticalement parfaite, mais c'est le point de départ de la quatrième édition du concours d'écriture de l'Expo Shawville. Les participants de la classe 6 devront utiliser cette phrase, en tout ou en partie, comme première phrase de leur texte.

Cinq autres catégories sont également offertes : Fiction, Non-fiction, Science-fiction et fantastique, Opinion et Poésie. Les droits d'inscription sont inclus avec l'achat d'une adhésion à la Société d'agriculture du Pontiac ou d'une passe de fin de semaine. Des prix en argent sont remis dans chaque catégorie, en plus d'un grand prix de 200 \$, généreusement commandité par le Conseil d'alphabétisation de l'Ouest du Québec.

Le concours d'écriture vise à offrir aux auteurs de la région l'occasion de faire

connaître leurs œuvres. Il n'y a aucune catégorie selon l'âge ou la langue; toutes les œuvres sont évaluées de façon égale dans leur catégorie respective. Au fil des ans, les participants ont été aussi bien des adolescents que des personnes dans la soixante-dizaine, représentant un vaste éventail de parcours scolaires et d'expériences de vie.

Vous trouverez tous les détails ainsi que les règlements du concours sur le site Web de l'Expo Shawville, à l'adresse www.shawvillefair.ca. Consultez la section 3B du règlement des Arts domestiques. Je répondrai également avec plaisir à vos questions par Facebook Messenger ou par courriel à l'adresse mccann.thomas.david@gmail.com.

Tom McCann,
 CLARENDON

CORRECTION - DL'article « Pleins Écrans fait escale à Fort-Coulonge », publié dans l'édition du 17 juin, a omis de mentionner le rôle de l'organisme culturel Phare Ouest de Mansfield dans la présentation de l'activité Par-Court Plein(s) Écran(s) au cinéma Lyn.

Phare Ouest a contribué à négocier la présentation de l'activité Par-Court, à soutenir financièrement l'événement et à animer la soirée. La proposition d'accueillir cette initiative dans le Pontiac provient de Marie Gionet, commissaire en développement économique – volet culture à la MRC de Pontiac. Selon Phare Ouest, cette activité de Plein(s) Écran(s) n'aurait pas pu avoir lieu dans la région sans la participation de l'organisme. *Le Journal du Pontiac* regrette cette omission. *-La rédaction*

CORRECTION - Dans l'article « Alleyn-et-Cawood souligne ses 150 ans », publié dans l'édition du 17 juin, la personne apparaissant dans la photo alors qu'elle tombait dans le bassin a été incorrectement identifiée dans la légende comme étant la conseillère Jessica Cayer. Il s'agissait en fait de la mairesse d'Alleyn-et-Cawood, Mme Sidney Squitti. Nous nous excusons de cette erreur. *-La rédaction*

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LE CARNET DE L'ÉDITEUR /
 THE PUBLISHER'S NOTEBOOK : Page 7

Nouvelle directrice adjointe à l'École des Petits-Ponts

TASHI FARMILO

MRC DE PONTIAC – Le Centre de services scolaire des Hauts-Bois-de-l'Outaouais (CSSHBO) a nommé Caroline Marion au poste de directrice adjointe de l'École des Petits-Ponts, à compter du 1er juillet. L'école primaire francophone compte six pavillons répartis dans l'ensemble du Pontiac.

Mme Marion œuvre au sein du centre de

services scolaire depuis 2002 et amorcera sa 24e année de service. Elle est titulaire d'un baccalauréat en enseignement secondaire, avec une spécialisation en français et en histoire, obtenu à l'Université du Québec en Outaouais en 2002, ainsi que d'une maîtrise en histoire de l'Université de Sherbrooke. Elle a également complété un microprogramme en accompagnement pédagogique en 2024 et devrait terminer, cet été, un diplôme

d'études supérieures spécialisées en gestion de l'éducation à l'Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue.

Mme Marion a consacré la majeure partie de sa carrière à l'enseignement du français au premier cycle du secondaire, un poste qu'elle a occupé pendant plus de 20 ans. Le CSSHBO souligne qu'elle a su transmettre aux élèves le goût de la lecture et de la langue française grâce à des projets concrets et à des approches pédagogiques novatrices.

Au cours des quatre dernières années, elle a également agi comme enseignante mentore, accompagnant les nouveaux membres du personnel dans leur intégration à la profession et le développement de leurs compétences. Le centre de services scolaire la décrit comme une collègue appréciée, reconnue pour son leadership, son écoute et sa volonté de soutenir les personnes qui l'entourent.

Plus tôt dans sa carrière, Mme Marion a travaillé au Collège Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes, à Longueuil, et a enseigné le français au primaire à l'École Du Marais, à Gatineau. Selon le CSSHBO, ces expériences, combinées



Caroline Marion a été nommée directrice adjointe de l'École des Petits-Ponts. (CSSHBO)

au fait qu'elle est mère de trois enfants, lui ont permis de développer une solide compréhension des réalités vécues par les élèves et leurs familles.

Le CSSHBO a félicité Mme Marion pour sa nomination et lui a souhaité beaucoup de succès dans l'exercice de ses nouvelles fonctions.

Les gagnants du concours de la Fête des Pères

Father's Day contest winners

- DC Bar, Chapeau: 25\$
Winner: Joey Lépine, Chapeau
- l'Épicerie Dubeau, Chapeau: 25\$
Winner: James Skuce, Chapeau
- Fresco's tap & Grill, Pembroke: 25\$
Winner: Cobey Dean, Chapeau
- Pete's Sales and Service: T-shirt
Winner: Luc Pilon, Mansfield
- Pete's Sales and Service: T-shirt
Winner: Nicholas Jolin, Mansfield
- Campbell's Polaris, Shawville: 50\$
Winner: Julien Beland, Mansfield
- Brauwerk Hoffman, Campbell's Bay: 50\$
Winner: Ted Day, Mansfield
- Finnigan's Road House, Pembroke: 50\$
Winner: Roger St-Cyr, Pembroke
- Momma's Studio, Fort-Coulonge: 30\$
Winner: Kyle Labre, Chichester
- Station de Mansfield, Mansfield: 25\$
Winner: Mark Helmer, Quyon
- Salon de Coiffure la Styliste, Fort-Coulonge: 30\$
Winner: John Walsh, Campbell's Bay

Quebec Liberals promote new approach to language policy

CARL HAGER

GATINEAU – Pontiac MNA André Fortin, currently serving as the Liberal Party's opposition leader in the National Assembly, spoke with the *Pontiac Journal* on June 17 about the party's policy direction ahead of the summer recess.

Fortin serves as the Liberal spokesperson on behalf of party leader Charles Milliard, who doesn't currently hold a seat in the National Assembly.

Fortin said the Quebec Liberals are proposing a more positive approach to addressing language issues in the province. Rather than continuing what he described as punitive and divisive measures aimed at addressing the perceived decline of French, such as banning the chant "Go Habs Go" on city buses, the Liberals will invest \$380 million to strengthen the French language through schools and economic opportunity.

Under the proposal, schoolchildren



Pontiac MNA André Fortin.

would receive one French-language book each year, libraries would receive increased funding, reading would become a greater priority, and immigrants would gain faster access to French-language instruction.

— "Language policy" p. 29

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LE CARNET DE L'ÉDITEUR

THE PUBLISHER'S NOTEBOOK

Comment lancer un journal...



FRED RYAN

De tous les éléments nécessaires au lancement d'un journal communautaire comme le *Journal du Pontiac*, que ce soit il y a quarante ans ou aujourd'hui, trouver les bons employés et les bons gestionnaires est essentiel, point final. Un journal exige un vaste éventail de compétences, davantage que les commerces de détail, les entreprises de transport, les exploitations agricoles ou les compagnies forestières. Un média doit couvrir une grande variété de sujets — des sports à la politique locale et régionale, en passant par les nouvelles scolaires, les arts, la santé, les affaires et les questions syndicales. Il suffit de consulter la liste des employés de n'importe quel média! Il faut assurer la gestion, les ventes publicitaires, la comptabilité, la facturation et le recouvrement, les questions fiscales, la planification, les projets spéciaux, le développement et les relations avec les employés. Il faut aussi des graphistes, des spécialistes de la mise en page, ainsi qu'un rédacteur en chef et des journalistes. Quelques personnes ou plusieurs dizaines peuvent se partager ces responsabilités, mais toutes ces tâches doivent être accomplies et exigent une certaine expertise.

Les compétences — et l'expérience — requises comprennent également les

connaissances en informatique, le graphisme et la mise en page, la photographie, la capacité de rédiger de façon claire et concise, la révision, ainsi que l'aptitude à travailler sous pression : les échéances! Trouver des personnes possédant ces intérêts et ces compétences est déjà difficile, mais trouver des candidats ayant une expérience suffisante sans exiger un salaire trop élevé peut représenter un véritable défi.

Cela soulève la question du financement. Comment obtenir les fonds nécessaires pour effectuer les recherches préalables, aménager un bureau, trouver des installations d'impression, payer les salaires et les frais d'exploitation jusqu'à ce que l'entreprise devienne autonome? Cela peut prendre des années.

Oui, des années!

Le financement de démarrage peut provenir de prêts personnels ou familiaux, de prêts bancaires, d'héritages ou encore de l'hypothèque de vos biens (votre maison!). Le *Journal* a été lancé principalement grâce à des prêts personnels et familiaux, tandis que le futur propriétaire-éditeur (moi) n'a touché aucun salaire pendant les trois premières années. Je dépendais des repas et d'un logement à faible coût offerts par des amis; j'élevais également trois merveilleux enfants comme parent seul, le tout en même temps. Une aven-

ture d'une vie, assurément.

À titre d'éditeur fondateur, j'ai dû occuper de nombreux postes, travailler bien après minuit la plupart des soirs et compter sur la générosité des employés, des créanciers et des fournisseurs. Au cours des premières années du *Journal*, le propriétaire-éditeur du *Pembroke Observer*, où le journal était imprimé, s'est montré d'une générosité exceptionnelle en partageant ses conseils d'affaires, en faisant preuve de patience pour m'accorder du crédit et en acceptant des modalités de paiement. C'était un allié précieux.

— Suite en p. 19

How to start a newspaper...

FRED RYAN

Of all the elements needed to launch a community newspaper like the *Pontiac Journal*, whether forty years ago or today, finding the right employees and manager(s) is crucial, period. A newspaper requires multiple skill sets, more than retail businesses or transportation services, farming or logging companies. Any media needs to cover a wide variety of news—sports to local and regional politics, school news, the arts, health, business and labour news. Look at any media's directory of employees! There's management and

advertising sales, accounting, billing and bill-collecting, tax matters, planning, special projects, expansions and employee relations. There are designers, layout specialists, and of course an editor and the journalists. A few or many employees may handle all this, but these tasks need to be covered and require a certain expertise.

The skills—and experience—needed also include computer skills, design and layout, photography, concise and clear writing, editing, and the ability to work under pressure: deadlines! Just finding employees with these interests and skills is difficult enough, but also finding candidates with adequate experience but without excessive salary expectations can be a real challenge.

This opens the question of financing. How can you afford to do the research needed, plus access the funds to set up an office, find printing facilities, pay salaries and operations until the business reaches a self-financing stage? This can take years.

Yes, years!

Start-up financing can come from family and personal loans to bank financing, inheritances, and mortgaging assets (your home!). The *Journal* was launched mainly by personal and family loans, while the owner/publisher-to-be (me) took no salary for the

first three years. I depended on meals and a low-rent home from friends; I was also raising three great kids as a single parent, all at the same time. A lifetime's adventure, for sure.

As the founding publisher, I had to fill plenty of positions, work past midnight most nights and depend upon the generosity of employees, creditors and suppliers. In the early days of the *Journal*, the publisher of the *Pembroke Observer*, where the paper was printed, was incredibly generous with his business advice and his patience in extending credit and accepting payment schedules. He was an ally to honour.

I had to take risks, to convince others—besides myself—of the ultimate success of my vision; it was essential and powered by ambition, honesty and self-confidence. There were too many places to stumble, fatally, while trying to create a valuable tool to be part of our community's growth and its self-confidence.

Big corporations do provide jobs in a community, but they do not pass along the communal self-confidence that makes a community strong. To me it was clear to reach that goal would not be easy, not speedy, and not without immense cooperation from everyone touched by these efforts.

—“40th” p. 28



MORE NEWS FOR THE PONTIAC!

The *Journal* moved to its current office at 289 rue Principale in Mansfield in the early 1990s. A large new sign marked the move, which reflected the growing demand for local news across the Pontiac.

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Destination:

Pontiac

Se détendre, explorer et se ressourcer au cœur de l'Outaouais

WILLIAM DALE

Le Pontiac accueille les visiteurs avec ses matins paisibles au bord des lacs, ses routes sinueuses traversant les forêts profondes et ses soirées sous un ciel à perte de vue. Dans ses villes et villages, les rassemblements communautaires, les festivals et les événements reflètent une longue tradition d'hospitalité. Entre aventures en plein air, sites historiques, plages sablonneuses et célébrations estivales animées, la région invite à découvrir un territoire façonné par la nature, l'histoire et les gens qui y vivent.

Mansfield : patrimoine et aventure

Nichée le long de la rivière Coulonge, la Municipalité de Mansfield-et-Pontefract marie un riche héritage forestier à certaines des attractions de plein air les plus réputées du Pontiac.

— Suite en pg. 9

Unwind, explore, and connect in the Outaouais's heartland

WILLIAM DALE

The Pontiac welcomes visitors with quiet mornings on its lakes, winding drives through deep forests, and evenings under wide-open skies. Across its towns and villages, local gatherings, festivals, and community events reflect a long tradition of hospitality. From wilderness adventures and historic landmarks to sandy beaches and vibrant summer celebrations, the region offers an invitation to experience a distinct landscape shaped by nature, history, and the people who call it home.

Mansfield's mix of heritage and adventure

Nestled along the Coulonge River, the Municipality of Mansfield-et-Pontefract blends a rich logging heritage with some of the Pontiac's most celebrated outdoor attractions.

— "Pontiac" pg. 9

Centre de Rénovation - Mansfield



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Destination: Pontiac

Pontiac — de la p. 8

Le point de repère le plus emblématique de la municipalité est le pont Félix-Gabriel-Marchand, le plus long pont couvert du Québec. Construit en 1898 et désigné monument historique en 1989, ce pont rouge emblématique demeure un arrêt incontournable pour les photographes, les passionnés d'histoire et les visiteurs qui parcourent la route 148. À proximité, la nouvelle halte routière de la municipalité constitue une porte d'entrée accueillante vers la région avec ses tables de pique-nique, ses toilettes autonettoyantes et ses bornes de recharge pour véhicules électriques.

À quelques minutes de là, la Maison culturelle George Bryson offre un aperçu de l'époque du bois qui a contribué à façonner le Pontiac. Cette majestueuse demeure de pierre abrite des expositions historiques, un salon de thé, des jeux d'évasion et des ressources offertes par la Société généalogique du Pontiac.

Pour les amateurs de plein air, Mansfield constitue un point de départ idéal vers plusieurs des aventures les plus connues de la région. Le Parc des Chutes Coulonge demeure l'une des attractions phares du Pontiac avec sa spectaculaire chute de 42 mètres, ses sentiers en canyon, ses tyroliennes, sa via ferrata et son interprétation de l'histoire forestière locale.

Plus loin dans l'arrière-pays, Domaine du Lac Bryson offre aux visiteurs l'occasion de découvrir la nature sauvage du nord du Pontiac. Située au nord de Mansfield, la pourvoirie gère un vaste territoire privé comprenant 17 lacs interconnectés. Pêcheurs, chasseurs et amateurs de plein air y découvrent une véritable expérience en milieu sauvage.

Autre destination unique, Aventure Hélianthe est située à la plage du Pont Blanc. La coopérative propose des descentes de rivière, de la randonnée, du lancer de hache, du vélo, du camping et de l'hébergement en yourte, tout en servant de camp de base pour explorer les forêts et

cours d'eau environnants.

Matériaux JLS offre tout ce qu'il faut, des matériaux de construction et produits d'aménagement paysager aux fournitures de camping et essentiels saisonniers. Son vaste inventaire et ses services de livraison en font une ressource précieuse pour les villégiateurs et propriétaires de la région.



Le pont Félix-Gabriel-Marchand à Mansfield, le plus long pont couvert du Québec, demeure l'un des points de repère les plus emblématiques du Pontiac. / The Félix-Gabriel-Marchand Bridge in Mansfield, the longest covered bridge in Quebec, remains one of the Pontiac's most recognizable landmarks.

À proximité, le Centre de Rénovation Mansfield – Home Hardware continue de jouer un rôle important dans la vie communautaire. En plus d'offrir matériaux de construction, électroménagers et produits de rénovation, l'entreprise appuie activement les organismes locaux, les événements sportifs et diverses initiatives communautaires. Son engagement de longue date envers la municipalité reflète l'esprit communautaire que les visiteurs retrouvent partout dans le Pontiac.

Les visiteurs peuvent également compter sur NAPA Pièces d'Auto Boisfort inc. pour poursuivre leur séjour en toute tranquillité. Qu'il s'agisse d'un entretien de routine, d'une réparation imprévue ou simplement de fournitures pour reprendre la route, un service automobile fiable procure une précieuse tranquillité d'esprit aux voyageurs qui explorent la région.

— Suite en p. 10

Pontiac — from p. 8

The municipality's most recognizable landmark is the historic Félix-Gabriel-Marchand Bridge, the longest covered bridge in Quebec. Built in 1898 and designated a historic monument in 1989, the iconic red bridge remains a favourite stop for



photographers, history enthusiasts, and visitors exploring Route 148. Nearby, the municipality's new rest area provides a welcoming gateway to the region with picnic tables, self-cleaning washrooms, and electric vehicle charging stations.

A short distance away, the George Bryson House offers visitors a glimpse into the timber era that helped shape the Pontiac. The stately stone manor houses historical exhibits, a tea room, escape rooms, and resources through the Pontiac Genealogical Society.

For those drawn to the outdoors, Mansfield serves as a launch point for some of the region's best-known adventures. Parc des Chutes Coulonge remains one of the Pontiac's signature attractions, featuring a spectacular 42-metre waterfall, canyon trails, ziplines, a via ferrata climbing route, and interpretation of the area's logging history.

Farther into the backcountry, Bryson

Lake Lodge offers visitors an opportunity to experience the northern Pontiac wilderness. Located north of Mansfield in the MRC's unorganized territory, the outfitter manages an expansive private territory encompassing 17 interconnected lakes. Anglers, hunters, paddlers, and outdoor enthusiasts can explore a landscape of forests, waterways, and remote camps while enjoying a true wilderness experience far removed from city life.

Another unique destination is Aventure Hélianthe, located at Plage du Pont Blanc. Operating from the historic White Bridge site, the cooperative offers river descents, hiking, axe throwing, cycling, camping, and yurt accommodations while serving as a base camp for exploring the surrounding forests and waterways.

Matériaux JLS provides everything from building materials and landscaping products to camping supplies and seasonal essentials. Its extensive inventory and delivery services have made it a valuable resource for cottagers and homeowners throughout the region.

Nearby, Centre de Rénovation Mansfield – Home Hardware continues to play an important role in community life. In addition to supplying building materials, appliances, and home improvement products, the business actively supports local organizations, sporting events, and community initiatives. Its longstanding commitment to the municipality reflects the community spirit that visitors encounter throughout the Pontiac.

Visitors can also count on NAPA Pièces d'Auto Boisfort inc. to help keep their travels on track. Whether it's routine maintenance, an unexpected repair, or supplies for the road ahead, dependable automotive service offers peace of mind for travellers exploring the region.

Campbell's Bay on the waterfront

Situated in the heart of the Pontiac, the Municipality of Campbell's Bay continues to build on its reputation as a welcoming riverside community where recreation, culture, and small-town hospitality come together.

— "Pontiac" p. 11

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Destination: *Pontiac*

Pontiac — de la p. 9

Campbell's Bay au bord de l'eau

Située au cœur du Pontiac, la Municipalité de Campbell's Bay continue de bâtir sa réputation de communauté riveraine accueillante où se rencontrent loisirs, culture et hospitalité.

Bordée par la rivière des Outaouais, la municipalité offre un front d'eau invitant, des parcs riverains, un jeu d'eau et un centre-ville agréable à parcourir à pied.

Les terrains extérieurs de pickleball et de tennis ont été modernisés, tandis qu'une station BoxUp permet aux résidents et visiteurs d'emprunter gratuitement de l'équipement sportif. Des améliorations se poursuivent au parc Maurice-Beauregard.

La rue Front demeure le cœur de la municipalité, offrant des vues sur la rivière des Outaouais et un accès direct au Cycloparc PPJ. Tout au long de l'été, les événements communautaires, les spectacles Musique dans le parc, les activités récréatives et la saison inaugurale de l'équipe de balle rapide des Royals de Campbell's Bay contribuent à maintenir une ambiance dynamique et accueillante.

Campbell's Bay offre une halte détendue au cœur du Pontiac.

Bristol, pays de plage

Plus à l'est le long de la rivière des Outaouais, la Municipalité de Bristol demeure l'une des destinations estivales préférées du Pontiac, reconnue pour ses routes tranquilles et son atmosphère de villégiature.

Au cœur de l'attrait estival de Bristol se trouve la plage Norway Bay, l'une des destinations riveraines les plus connues de la région. Sa rive sablonneuse constitue un endroit idéal pour la baignade, les pique-niques, la détente et l'observation des couchers de soleil sur la rivière des Outaouais. Tout près se dresse le quai historique de Norway Bay, un point de repère qui accueille résidents, villégiateurs et visiteurs depuis des générations et qui demeure l'un des symboles les plus reconnaissables de la communauté.

Au-delà de ce secteur riverain, les routes pittoresques de Bristol traversent des terres agricoles vallonnées, des paysages riverains, des propriétés patrimoniales et des secteurs ruraux paisibles qui témoignent des racines agricoles de la municipalité. Son emplacement sur la rivière des Outaouais en fait une destination prisée des pagayeurs, pêcheurs et plaisanciers.

Les visiteurs découvrent à Bristol l'une des destinations estivales incontournables du Pontiac.

— Suite en p. 11

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Destination: *Pontiac*

Pontiac — de la p. 10

Les traditions estivales de Shawville

Centre commercial du Pontiac, Shawville combine le charme d'une petite ville à un calendrier d'événements bien rempli qui attire des visiteurs de toute la région tout au long de l'été et de l'automne. Son centre-ville historique, ses commerces locaux et ses profondes racines agricoles en font un lieu de rassemblement naturel pour les résidents comme pour les visiteurs.

Parmi les destinations les plus populaires de la ville figure le parc Mill Dam, où les familles peuvent profiter du jeu d'eau, pique-niquer sous les arbres matures ou accéder au Cycloparc PPJ. Le parc offre également des emplacements de camping saisonniers, ce qui en fait un point de départ pratique pour découvrir



Aventure Hélianthe propose l'escalade de glace durant l'hiver. Aventure Hélianthe offers ice climbing during the winter.

(Aventure Hélianthe)

Shawville et le Pontiac.

La saison estivale débute avec les célébrations de la fête du Canada avant de céder la place à l'un des événements les plus attendus de la région : le Shawville Lions Country Jamboree. Du 16 au 19 juillet, l'Armstrong Heritage

Farm accueillera les amateurs de musique country pour quatre jours de spectacles et de camping. Le Jamboree est devenu l'un des événements estivaux emblématiques du Pontiac.

— Suite en p. 12

Pontiac — from p. 9

Set along the Ottawa River, the municipality offers a welcoming waterfront, riverside parks, a splash pad, and a walkable downtown.

Recent investments have expanded the municipality's recreational offerings. The outdoor pickleball and tennis courts have been upgraded with new surfaces and markings, while a BoxUp equipment station allows residents and visitors to borrow sports equipment free of charge.

— "Pontiac" p. 12



Une vue aérienne de Campbell's Bay met en valeur le front d'eau, les parcs et les installations récréatives de la municipalité le long de la rivière des Outaouais. / An aerial view of Campbell's Bay highlights the municipality's waterfront, parks and recreational facilities along the Ottawa River.

(Municipality of Campbell's)

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Destination: *Pontiac*

Pontiac — de la p. 11

La saison se poursuit ensuite avec une autre tradition de longue date : l'Expo Shawville. Organisée par la Société d'Agriculture du Pontiac, l'exposition célèbre le patrimoine agricole de la région depuis 1856 et demeure l'une des plus anciennes et des plus importantes foires agricoles du Québec. L'édition de cette année, présentée du 3 au 7 septembre, proposera de nouvelles expositions agricoles, concours de bétail, compétitions de chevaux lourds, tires de tracteurs, manèges, artistes musicaux de renommée nationale, artisans locaux et activités familiales.

W.A. Hodgins Home Hardware sert la population du Pontiac depuis 1857. Le commerce familial offre outils, peinture, produits de jardinage, articles ménagers,

cadeaux et fournitures de rénovation et appuie les organismes et événements qui contribuent à l'esprit communautaire du Pontiac.

Oktoberfest Ladysmith

Alors que l'été laisse place à l'automne, la saison des festivals se poursuit avec l'une des célébrations les plus distinctives du Pontiac : l'Oktoberfest de Ladysmith.

Présenté du 2 au 4 octobre à Thorne, le festival célèbre l'héritage allemand de la région à travers la musique, la gastronomie traditionnelle, les activités familiales et les rassemblements communautaires. Depuis 1985, l'Oktoberfest est devenu un incontournable du calendrier régional.

La fin de semaine propose spectacles, défilé communautaire, activités familiales et le populaire tire de camions et de tracteurs.

— Suite en p. 13

Pontiac — from p. 11

Improvements are also continuing at Maurice Beaugard Park, where renovations to the canteen and surrounding facilities are helping enhance one of the community's most popular gathering places.

Front Street remains the centrepiece of the municipality, offering views of the Ottawa River and direct access to the Cycloparc PPJ trail. Throughout the summer, community events, Music in the Park performances, recreational programming, and the inaugural season of the Campbell's Bay Royals fastball team will help keep the municipality active and welcoming for visitors.

Whether spending an afternoon along the waterfront, exploring the trail network, or taking in a community event, Campbell's Bay offers visitors a relaxed and welcoming stop in the heart of the Pontiac.



La plage Norway Bay demeure l'une des destinations estivales les plus populaires du Pontiac pour la baignade, la détente et les activités nautiques. /Norway Bay Beach remains one of the Pontiac's most popular summer destinations for swimming, relaxation and waterfront recreation.

Bristol's beach country

Further down the Ottawa River, the Municipality of Bristol has long served as one of the Pontiac's favourite summer destinations. With its mature trees, quiet roads, and deep connection to the river, the municipality continues

to attract visitors seeking a slower pace and a classic cottage-country atmosphere.

At the heart of Bristol's summer appeal is Norway Bay Beach, one of the region's best-known waterfront destinations.

— "Pontiac" p. 13

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- Bristol Market relocated to nearby Coronation Hall

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Destination: Pontiac

Pontiac — de la p. 12

La cuisine allemande traditionnelle, l'hospitalité locale et le camping rustique gratuit contribuent à créer l'ambiance chaleureuse qui fait le succès de l'événement depuis des générations.

Otter Lake : terrain de jeu en plein air

Située à un peu plus de 100 kilomètres d'Ottawa, la Municipalité d'Otter Lake offre aux visiteurs une porte d'entrée vers certains des plus beaux espaces naturels du Pontiac tout en conservant l'atmosphère accueillante d'une communauté rurale tissée serrée.

L'année 2026 marque le 150^e anniversaire de la municipalité. Fondée en 1876, Otter Lake est reconnue pour ses activités de plein air, son esprit communautaire et ses paysages naturels. Les célébrations du 150^e anniversaire se poursuivent tout au long de l'année. Après les festivités de la fête du Canada et le Summerfest, l'événement phare de la saison aura lieu le 26 septembre avec la célébration patrimoniale et agricole « Back to Our Roots », suivie plus tard à l'automne d'une soirée dansante fluorescente destinée aux jeunes.

Pour les amateurs de



Un coucher de soleil paisible sur l'une des nombreuses étendues d'eau d'Otter Lake reflète la beauté naturelle qui attire les visiteurs dans le Pontiac. / A tranquil sunset over one of Otter Lake's many scenic waterways reflects the natural beauty that continues to draw visitors to the Pontiac. (Municipality of Otter Lake)

plein air, Otter Lake constitue une base idéale pour l'exploration. Les réseaux de sentiers pour VTT, motoneige, vélo et randonnée permettent de découvrir les espaces naturels environnants, tandis que le secteur réputé du Picanoc attire pêcheurs, chasseurs et aventuriers à la recherche d'une expérience en retrait. Les lacs et les forêts de la région continuent d'attirer les visiteurs qui souhaitent pêcher, pagayer, camper ou simplement profiter de la tranquillité de la nature pontissoise.

À proximité du village, les visiteurs peuvent profiter des installations récréatives, des événements communau-

naires, du parc Leslie au bord du lac Leslie et du camp scout historique d'Otter Lake.

Que l'on recherche l'aventure ou la détente, Otter Lake offre un véritable aperçu de l'hospitalité du Pontiac.

Pour ceux qui souhaitent s'immerger dans la nature, Pourvoirie Tisonagan offre une véritable expérience en arrière-pays. Située au nord d'Otter Lake sur le chemin Picanoc, la pourvoirie est établie sur les rives du lac Shingwôk et permet aux visiteurs de décrocher du quotidien pour renouer avec la nature.

— Suite en p. 14

Pontiac — from p. 12

The sandy shoreline offers an ideal setting for swimming, picnicking, relaxing by the water, and watching the sun set over the Ottawa River. Nearby stands the historic Norway Bay pier, a landmark that has welcomed generations of residents, cottagers, and visitors and remains one of the most recognizable symbols of the community.

Beyond the waterfront, Bristol's scenic back roads lead visitors through rolling farmland, riverside views, heritage properties, and quiet rural landscapes that reflect the municipality's agricultural roots. The municipality's location along the Ottawa River also makes it a popular destination for paddlers, anglers, and boaters, while the surrounding countryside offers some of the Pontiac's most enjoyable scenic drives.

Whether visitors are spending the day at the beach, taking in views of the historic pier, exploring the countryside, or simply enjoying the slower rhythm of rural life, Bristol remains one of the Pontiac's quintessential summer destinations.



Les Plager Boys se produisent lors du Shawville Lions Country Jamboree, l'un des événements estivaux emblématiques du Pontiac, présenté chaque année à l'Armstrong Heritage Farm. / The Plager Boys perform during the Shawville Lions Country Jamboree, one of the Pontiac's signature summer events, held annually at Armstrong Heritage Farm.

Shawville's summer traditions

As the Pontiac's commercial centre, Shawville combines small-town charm with a calendar of events that draws visitors from across the region. The community's historic downtown and agricultural roots make it a natural gathering place.

One of the town's most popular destinations is Mill Dam Park, where families can cool off at the splash pad, enjoy a picnic beneath

mature trees, or connect to the Cycloparc PPJ trail. The park also offers seasonal camping sites, making it a convenient base for visitors exploring Shawville and the surrounding Pontiac.

The summer season begins with Shawville's annual Canada Day celebrations before shifting into one of the region's most anticipated events: the Shawville Lions Country Jamboree.

— "Pontiac" p. 14

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Destination: *Pontiac*

Pontiac — de la p. 13

Un pêcheur présente une belle prise lors d'une sortie au Domaine du Lac Bryson, l'une des destinations de pêche et de plein air les plus prisées du Pontiac.

An angler displays a successful catch during a fishing trip at Bryson Lake Lodge, where visitors can enjoy some of the Pontiac's premier fishing and outdoor experiences.

(Bryson Lake Lodge)



Pontiac — from p. 13

From July 16 to 19, the Armstrong Heritage Farm will once again welcome country music fans for four days of entertainment, camping, and Pontiac hospitality. Now in its 13th year, the Jamboree has become a signature Pontiac event.

The season continues with another longstanding tradition: the Shawville Fair. Organized by the Pontiac Agricultural Society, the fair has been celebrating the region's agricultural heritage since 1856 and remains one of the largest and oldest agricultural exhibitions in Quebec. This year's fair runs from September 3 to 7 and will once again feature agricultural exhibitions, livestock displays, heavy horse competitions, tractor pulls, midway rides, nationally recognized musical performers, local crafts, and family activities.

W.A. Hodgins Home Hardware has served the Pontiac since 1857 and remains one of Shawville's best-known businesses. For visitors, cottagers and residents, the family-owned store offers everything from hardware and paint to gardening supplies, housewares and gifts. Its longstanding support for local organizations, festivals, and community events reflects the community spirit that continues to define Shawville and the Pontiac.

Oktoberfest Ladysmith

As summer gives way to autumn, the Pontiac's festival season continues with one of the region's most distinctive celebrations: Oktoberfest Ladysmith. Held October 2 to 4 in Thorne, the festival celebrates the area's German heritage through live music, traditional food, family activities, and community gatherings. Since 1985, Oktoberfest has become a fixture on the regional calendar, drawing visitors from across the Ottawa Valley and beyond.

Throughout the weekend, festivalgoers can enjoy live entertainment, a community parade, craft displays, horseshoe competi-



Le site de l'Expo Shawville s'anime à la tombée de la nuit avec ses manèges, jeux et kiosques alimentaires pendant les cinq jours de l'évènement. / The midway comes alive after dark at the Shawville Fair, where rides, games and food vendors draw fairgoers throughout the five-day event.

(Shawville Fair)

tions, children's activities, and the popular truck and tractor pull. Traditional German cuisine, local hospitality, and free rough camping help create the welcoming atmosphere that has made the event a favourite for generations.

For travelers looking to extend the festival season and experience another side of the Pontiac's cultural heritage, Oktoberfest Ladysmith provides a fitting conclusion to a busy calendar of summer and fall events.

Otter Lake's outdoor playground

Roughly 100 kilometres from Ottawa, the Municipality of Otter Lake offers visitors a gateway to some of the Pontiac's most scenic wilderness while maintaining the welcoming atmosphere of a close-knit rural community.

The year 2026 marks a significant milestone as the municipality celebrates its 150th anniversary. Founded in 1876, Otter Lake has evolved from its logging-era origins into a destination known for outdoor recreation, community spirit, and access to some of the region's most beautiful natural landscapes.

The municipality's 150th-anniversary celebrations continue throughout this year. Following Canada Day festivities and Summerfest, the season's

signature event arrives September 26 with the "Back to Our Roots" Heritage & Harvest Celebration, while a glow-in-the-dark dance for youth follows later in the fall.

For outdoor enthusiasts, Otter Lake serves as a natural base for exploration. Extensive networks of ATV, snowmobile, bicycle, and hiking trails connect visitors to the surrounding wilderness, while the renowned Picanoc area attracts anglers, hunters, and adventurers seeking a more remote experience. The region's lakes and forests continue to draw visitors looking to fish, paddle, camp, or simply enjoy the tranquility of the Pontiac wilderness.

Closer to the village, visitors can enjoy recreational facilities, local events, Leslie Park on the shores of Leslie Lake, and the historic Otter Lake Scout Camp. Whether seeking outdoor adventure or a peaceful escape, Otter Lake offers an authentic taste of Pontiac hospitality.

For travelers looking to immerse themselves in the wilderness, Tisonagan Outfitter provides a true backcountry experience.

Located north of Otter Lake along chemin Picanoc, the outfitter sits on the shores of Shingwôk Lake and offers visitors a chance to disconnect from everyday life and reconnect with nature. — "Pontiac" p. 15

13th Annual SHAWVILLE LIONS COUNTRY JAMBOREE

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| Chris Craig | <p>Friday, July 17</p> <p>1:00 Unwound to Stage — (An hour set provided by the house band) 2:00-2:15 Welcome (Mayor, Lions, etc.) 2:15 Chris Craig 3:00 Roddy McCann 4:00 Rae Palmer 4:45 Wyld Hunny 5:30 Dinner Break 6:50 Unwound to Stage 7:00 Plager Boys 7:50 Arnold Trudeau 8:55 Rick Rogers 10:00 Kirk Warren 11:15 Stage Close</p> | Dan Paul Rogers | Adam Hamelin |
| Robert (Bob) Deguire | <p>Saturday, July 18</p> <p>12:50 Unwound to Stage 1:00 Phil Labelle 1:45 Jessica Lavelle 2:45 Robert (Bob) Deguire 3:30 Yvan Petit 4:30 Dan Paul Rogers 5:30 Dinner Break 6:50 Unwound to Stage 7:00 Adam Hamelin 7:50 Jennifer Smith 8:55 Neville Wells 10:00 Phil Denault 11:15 Stage Close</p> <p><i>No entertainment on Sunday.</i> Phil Denault - Sound system & lighting Charlie Kitts - M.C. Unwound - Stage Band</p> | Kirk Warren | Arnold Trudeau |
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Destination: Pontiac

Pontiac — de la p. 14

Anciennement connue sous le nom de la pourvoirie du lac Squaw, l'entreprise porte désormais le nom de Pourvoirie Tisonagan en reconnaissance du patrimoine algonquin.

Ses chalets quatre saisons et son vaste territoire offrent d'excellentes possibilités de pêche, de chasse, de canotage et d'observation de la faune. Durant la belle saison, les visiteurs peuvent profiter de plans d'eau réputés pour le brochet, l'achigan et le touladi.

Qu'il s'agisse d'un séjour de fin de semaine ou d'une aventure prolongée, Tisonagan permet de découvrir toute la beauté sauvage qui caractérise l'arrière-pays du Pontiac.

Pourquoi les visiteurs choisissent de rester

Pour plusieurs visiteurs, un séjour dans le Pontiac soulève rapidement une question : pourquoi ne pas y rester?

La combinaison de paysages naturels remarquables, de communautés dynamiques et d'un coût de vie abordable continue d'attirer de nouveaux résidents.

Pour ceux qui envisagent ce changement, Claire Gauthier de Royal LePage Vallée de l'Outaouais aide



L'un des hébergements les plus uniques du Pontiac : le chalet flottant de la Pourvoirie Tisonagan. / One of Pontiac's most unique accommodations — the floating cottage at Tisonagan Lodge.

(Tisonagan Lodge)

depuis plus de vingt ans des familles à trouver leur place dans la région. Native du Pontiac, elle met sa vaste connaissance du territoire au service des acheteurs à la recherche de maisons, de chalets, de fermes ou de propriétés riveraines dans le Pontiac et au-delà. Son point de vue reflète ce que savent déjà de nombreux résidents : le Pontiac offre bien plus que de beaux paysages. Il offre un véritable sentiment d'appartenance.

Découvrez le Pontiac

Des sites historiques de Mansfield-et-Pontefract aux plages sablonneuses de Bristol, en passant par le charme riverain de Campbell's Bay, les festivals de Shawville et les grands

espaces d'Otter Lake, le Pontiac offre aux visiteurs une expérience unique dans l'Outaouais.

Soutenue par les entreprises, les bénévoles, les municipalités et des organismes comme la MRC de Pontiac, la région continue de mettre en valeur son patrimoine tout en créant de nouvelles occasions de développement touristique, récréatif et communautaire.

Que vous planifiez une excursion d'une journée, des vacances en famille, un séjour saisonnier ou même un déménagement, le Pontiac vous invite à ralentir, explorer et découvrir tout ce que cette remarquable région de l'ouest du Québec a à offrir. (Trad. JP)

Pontiac — from p. 14

Formerly known as Squaw Lake Outfitter, the business recently adopted the Tisonagan name in recognition of Algonquin heritage.

The outfitter's four-season chalets provide comfortable accommodations in a remote setting, while the surrounding territory offers exceptional fishing, hunting, paddling, and wildlife viewing opportunities. During the warmer months, visitors can enjoy exclusive fishing waters known for pike, bass, and lake trout. Hunting, canoeing, and wilderness exploration remain popular draws throughout the different seasons.

Whether spending a weekend on the lake or planning a longer outdoor adventure, Tisonagan offers visitors an opportunity to experience the rugged beauty that has long defined the Pontiac backcountry.

Why visitors choose to stay

For many visitors, a weekend in the Pontiac eventually sparks a larger question: why not stay? The region's combination of natural beauty, strong communities, and affordable rural living continues to attract new residents looking to make the transition from



L'Oktoberfest de Ladysmith propose des divertissements traditionnels allemands. / Oktoberfest Ladysmith features traditional German entertainment.

seasonal visitor to full-time Pontiac resident.

For those considering that move, local real estate professional Claire Gauthier of Royal LePage Vallée de l'Outaouais has spent more than two decades helping families find their place in the region. A Pontiac native, she brings extensive local knowledge and experience to buyers seeking homes, cottages, farms, and waterfront properties throughout the area and beyond. Her perspective reflects what many long-time residents already know: the region offers more than beautiful scenery. It offers a sense of community.

Discover the Pontiac

From the historic landmarks of Mansfield-et-Pontefract and the sandy shores of Bristol to the

waterfront charm of Campbell's Bay, the festivals of Shawville, and the wilderness of Otter Lake, the Pontiac offers visitors an experience unlike anywhere else in the Outaouais.

Supported by local businesses, volunteers, municipalities, and organizations such as the MRC Pontiac, the region continues to celebrate its heritage while embracing new opportunities for tourism, recreation, and community development.

Whether you're planning a day trip, a family vacation, a seasonal getaway, or considering making the region your permanent home, the Pontiac welcomes you to slow down, explore, and discover everything this remarkable corner of western Quebec has to offer.

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Portage-du-Fort hires consultant despite past ethics findings

WILLIAM DALE

PORTAGE-DU-FORT – Portage-du-Fort council has hired former Waltham director general Fernand Roy to help train the municipality's interim director general (DG) despite a past Quebec Municipal Commission (CMQ) report that found administrative irregularities and ethical breaches during his tenure. Following the June 3 council meeting, Joanne MacDonald was appointed interim DG to oversee the municipal office, and council approved a consulting contract for Roy at

a rate of \$65 per hour to assist with the administrative transition.

Roy's return to municipal work in the Pontiac comes after a public CMQ investigation into his time with the Municipality of Waltham. The commission's report found that Roy's spouse had been placed on the municipal payroll for unverified work and cited the irregular use of pre-signed blank municipal cheques. When asked whether council had considered the CMQ report before approving Roy's contract, Mayor Kevin Murphy said he had "no issues" with the

arrangement and defended the decision, describing Roy as a practical resource to help address an administrative backlog left by previous management.

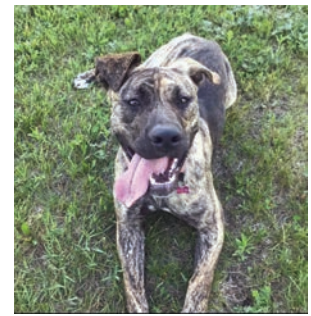
Murphy said Roy is working up to 30 hours, with the possibility of additional time, to train MacDonald on specialized municipal software, prepare resolutions and update neglected council minutes. "She doesn't really have the experience, but she's learning fast," Murphy said of the interim DG. "It's just catch up with the minutes, catch up with the bylaws, catch up with all that stuff that

hadn't been done or had been neglected, I should say." He described Roy's contract as short term, adding, "He's here a little bit longer, not much." Murphy later added, "He's doing a perfect job."

The municipality has not yet established a firm timeline for hiring a permanent DG. Murphy said council is using the extensions permitted under provincial legislation to keep MacDonald in the interim role while it prepares to recruit a permanent replacement. "She's [hired for] 30 days with an extension of possibly another 30 days," Murphy said, adding that he would need to verify the exact dates but that the municipality intends to use the full extension period. Murphy confirmed the permanent DG position is being advertised in the *Pontiac Journal* [see pg. 35].

Despite the administrative challenges facing the municipality, Murphy said the atmosphere at the municipal office has improved during the transition. "The environment changed quite a bit here," he said. "Everybody's happy. So, it's just all up from here."

Disparition à Mansfield : la SQ suspend les recherches



Jérôme Héroult, de Mansfield, et son chien sont portés disparus depuis le 19 juin.

(Profil Facebook de Jérôme Héroult)

WILLIAM DALE

MANSFIELD – La Sûreté du Québec (SQ) a suspendu les recherches au sol visant à retrouver Jérôme Héroult, un résident de Mansfield-et-Pontefract âgé de 66 ans porté disparu depuis le 19 juin.

M. Héroult a été vu pour la dernière fois quittant sa résidence de la rue Monseigneur-Pilon à bord d'un VTT, accompagné de son chien, en direction d'un secteur boisé à proximité. Bien que les recherches au sol aient été suspendues le 24 juin, l'enquête demeure active et la police indique que les recherches reprendront si de nouveaux renseignements sont obtenus. Selon le sergent Marc Tessier, porte-parole de la SQ, les enquêteurs poursuivent leur travail. « Les enquêtes vont se poursuivre afin de le localiser », a déclaré M. Tessier. « Les gens doivent demeurer vigilants lorsqu'ils circulent en forêt et porter attention à tout indice qui pourrait être découvert. »

M. Héroult mesure cinq pieds sept pouces, pèse environ 230 livres et a les cheveux gris et les yeux bleus. Il portait au moment de sa disparition un manteau noir et rouge ainsi qu'un casque noir et mauve. Toute personne qui l'aperçoit est priée de composer immédiatement le 911. Toute information concernant l'endroit où il pourrait se trouver peut également être transmise de façon anonyme au Centre d'information criminelle de la Sûreté du Québec, au 1 800 659-4264, en mentionnant le dossier numéro 131-260619-005.

Un message important sur la sécurité nautique de la part d'Ontario Power Generation.

An important water safety message from Ontario Power Generation.

Les estacades de sécurité en amont de la centrale hydroélectrique de Chats Falls, située près de Fitzroy Harbour, et en amont du barrage de contrôle McConnell, situé près de Rapides-des-Joachims, sont présentement endommagées.

Les estacades de sécurité sont des barrières flottantes qui délimitent les eaux restreintes et dangereuses près des installations hydroélectriques. Les réparations seront effectuées lorsque les conditions le permettront.

Pour votre sécurité, respectez toutes les pancartes et évitez la zone.

Restez à l'écart. Restez en sécurité.

Pour plus d'informations, visitez:

opg.com/watersafety et opg.com/eastern

The water safety booms above Chats Falls Generating Station, located near Fitzroy Harbour, and above the McConnell Control Dam, near Rapides-des-Joachims, are currently broken.

Safety booms are floating barriers that mark restricted and dangerous waters near hydroelectric facilities. Repairs will be made when conditions allow.

For your safety, obey all posted signs and stay clear of the area.

Stay clear. Stay safe.

For more information, visit:

opg.com/watersafety and opg.com/eastern



MRC — de la p. 3

Les maires ont aussi approuvé une aide financière de 15 000 \$ pour soutenir l'ouverture d'une buanderie libre-service à Mansfield destinée aux résidents et aux voyageurs.

L'Office des producteurs de bois du Pontiac recevra jusqu'à 75 000 \$ dans le cadre du Programme d'aménagement durable des forêts (PADF) afin d'appuyer l'aménagement durable des forêts et le développement de la forêt privée.

Autres dossiers

Au point varia, le maire de Clarendon, M. Ed Walsh, a demandé une mise à jour du dossier de l'abattoir. Mme Toller a indiqué que le projet était essentiellement terminé, mais qu'il attendait toujours son autorisation finale du ministère de l'Environnement.

« C'est simplement une question de bureaucratie », a-t-elle dit, précisant que la MRC avait demandé l'appui de la députée caquiste de Hull, Mme Suzanne Tremblay, afin de faire progresser le dossier.

Mme Lesage a indiqué que le personnel poursuivait les essais des équipements et

que deux bouchers avaient déjà été embauchés.

Par ailleurs, le conseil a adopté la version révisée de son plan climat à la suite de la consultation publique. La MRC prévoit le transmettre au gouvernement provincial d'ici la fin juillet afin de pouvoir présenter une demande de financement pour sa mise en œuvre.

Les maires ont aussi autorisé une demande de financement au ministère de l'Immigration pour mettre en œuvre le plan d'action en immigration de la MRC au cours des prochaines années.

Le comité de l'environnement étudie un service régional de collecte des résidus de construction ainsi qu'un éventuel écocentre ou un service de collecte des matières dangereuses. De nouvelles étiquettes de recyclage ont aussi été créées pour sensibiliser les citoyens au bon tri des matières recyclables.

Les rencontres du Conseil jeunesse sont quant à elles suspendues jusqu'en septembre en raison d'une baisse de participation.

Le conseil fera maintenant relâche pour l'été. La prochaine séance publique est prévue le 20 août.

Pontiac Bursaries awards \$36,000 to local students at McDowell ceremony



Thirty-six bursary recipients display their certificates during the Pontiac Bursaries annual awards evening at Dr. S.E. McDowell Elementary School on Tuesday, June 23, 2026.

WILLIAM DALE

SHAWVILLE – Pontiac Bursaries hosted its annual awards evening on Tuesday, June 23, at Dr. S.E. McDowell Elementary School, celebrating 36 local students pursuing post-secondary education this fall. Each recipient received a \$1,000 bursary, representing a \$36,000 investment in local students.

"We are quite happy with the numbers," said committee president Robert Pelletier, noting applications came from as far as Gatineau and Chapeau. "Over the last four years, we've handed out 34, 37, 40 and now 36. It's been a great run for the organization."

The coordination behind the annual awards evening and the large volume of applications is managed entirely by a dedicated group of local volunteers. Working alongside Pelletier are committee members France Lamarche, Jennifer Dubeau, Monique Lavigne, Lynne Lavery, Denis Rossignol and Jaime Christie-Stewart.

The \$1,000 bursaries are supporting a wide range of academic paths across Quebec and Ontario. According to committee data, this year's

recipients are entering programs in Practical Nursing, Social Service Work and Pre-Hospital Emergency Care. Technical fields and trades are also well represented, with students enrolled in Auto Mechanics, Electronics Engineering Technology, Architecture and Urban Forestry. At the university level, bursaries are supporting studies in Law, Economics, Education, Environmental Biology and a master's in Physiotherapy.

One recipient expressed appreciation in a handwritten thank-you card:

"I am so incredibly grateful for all the hard work, planning, and organizing this committee does to help students like me go to school. Your support truly makes a massive difference in my life."

The evening's guest speaker was 1995 bursary recipient Dr. Charlene Young, who graduated from Pontiac High School before building a career in scientific research. Young earned a PhD in immunology, conducted viral research and has spent the past 15 years with Health Canada overseeing vaccine safety. She has also worked with the World Health Organization on global health initiatives. Despite her international career, Young chose to return home to

raise her three children in Luskville.

"I started in Luskville, and receiving this bursary in 1995 really fostered my love for science and enabled me to pursue a full, rewarding career."

Charlene Young delivers the keynote address during the annual Pontiac Bursaries awards ceremony on June 23.



WD



Grâce à vos dons généreux, en 2026 les Bourses du Pontiac ont offert des bourses de 1 000 \$ à 36 étudiants pontissois. Voici la liste des donateurs et des récipiendaires qui ont mérité ces bourses.

Thanks to your generous contributions, the Pontiac Bursaries awarded 36 bursaries of \$1,000 to Pontiac students in 2026. Following is a list of the donors and the deserving recipients.

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| André Fortin, Député du Pontiac | Mégane Fortin |
| Dagenais Cartage | Anabelle Delisle |
| Dr. Maurice Lamarche et France Lamarche | Madelaine Walsh |
| Dre Lucie Mutchmore | Kaydan Levesque |
| Gail Sullivan -- in memory of the Morris sisters | Claudia Gagnon |
| Kathie and Gordie Black | Robin Lottes |
| Laura Stewart -- in memory of Terry Proulx | Mackenzie McKenny |
| Lavigne family -- in memory of Claire and Victor Lavigne | Cameron Crawford |
| Michel Caron | Brooklyn Pachal |
| Mountainview Turfgrass Specialists | Madysen Belland |
| MRC Pontiac | Kianna Jolicoeur |
| Municipality of l'Isle-aux-Allumettes | Madison Labonté |
| Municipalité de Mansfield | Logan Lance |
| Pharmacie Ahmad Hassan et Ehsan Dadvar - Uniprix | Maria Boucher |
| Pharmacie Ahmad Hassan et Ehsan Dadvar - Uniprix | Anna Lebeau |
| Pharmacie Ahmad Hassan et Ehsan Dadvar - Uniprix | Ève Lebeau |
| Pharmacie Ahmad Hassan et Ehsan Dadvar - Uniprix | Emma Smith |
| Pharmacie Ahmad Hassan et Ehsan Dadvar - Uniprix | Alexandre Therrien |
| Pharmacie Ahmad Hassan et Ehsan Dadvar - Uniprix | Cholie Meilleur |
| Pharmacie Ahmad Hassan et Ehsan Dadvar - Uniprix | Tia Dyelle |
| Pontiac Agricultural Society | Mason Vereyken |
| Robert and Suzette Pelletier | Hannah Twolan |
| ProMutuel Assurance | Vincent Morin |
| Services Pontiac Hydro Inc. | Jaedan Donnelly |
| Shawville Lions Club | Laura Graham |
| Shawville Rotary Club | Morgan Donnelly |
| Society Rural Physicians | Maëlla Griffin |
| Ronnie Lacrox | Ashtyn Côté |
| Ronnie Lacrox | Makayla Griffin |
| WJ Hayes and Sons Ltd. | Donovan Levesque |
| Clinique Chiropratique / Pharmacie Pavlina Zhivkov | Jaélie Bilodeau |
| Hursty's Bar and Grill / Blue Heron Landscaping / Cartrites Restaurant / Me Nancy Suominen | Michelle Leblanc |
| Municipality of Litchfield / Municipality of Otter Lake / Oktoberfest Ladysmith / Municipality of Chichester | Paige Dubeau |
| Pharmacie Ahmad Hassan et Ehsan Dadvar - Uniprix / Municipality of Shawville | Wyatt Durocher |
| Keith Fraser Cartage / RH Nugent / Trépanier & Raffoul, Notaires Inc / Pontiac Journal / PME InterNotaires, Mireille Alary / WA Hodgins, Home Hardware | Charlotte Graham |
| Pontiac UPA / Municipality of Pontiac | Ewan Smith |

40th — de la p. 7

J'ai dû prendre des risques et convaincre les autres, autant que moi-même, que ma vision finirait par réussir.

Cette conviction était alimentée par l'ambition, l'honnêteté et la confiance en soi. Les occasions d'échouer étaient nombreuses, parfois de façon irréversible, en tentant de créer un outil précieux qui contribuerait à la croissance de notre communauté et à la confiance qu'elle a en elle-même.

Les grandes entreprises créent certes des emplois dans une communauté, mais elles ne transmettent pas le sentiment de confiance collective qui rend une communauté forte. Il était clair pour moi que cet objectif ne serait ni facile, ni rapide, et qu'il ne pourrait être atteint sans l'immense collaboration de tous ceux qui seraient touchés par ces efforts.

Le Pontiac (et non les écoles de journalisme) nous a fourni des candidats prêts à

travailler fort pour un salaire modeste tout en apprenant le métier. Des employés de la première heure, comme Louise Donaldson, Peter Smith, Lily Ryan, Nancy Hunt, Christiane Côté, Robert Wills, Richard Ledbetter, Lynne Lavery, Dana Bertrand, Bonnie Zimmerling et plusieurs autres, ont fait partie de cette grande aventure. Certains sont toujours parmi nous, tandis que plusieurs ont poursuivi d'autres carrières au fil des ans. Aujourd'hui, de nouveaux visages se sont joints à nous : Alison Gerow, Bonnie Portelance, William Dale, Suzanne Dazé, Ginette Adam, Angela McKellar, Dale Shutt, Cliff Welsh, Cathy Fox, Cheryl Dolan et d'autres correspondants communautaires. Tous poursuivent le mandat original du *Journal* : apporter les nouvelles locales, dans les deux langues officielles, à chaque foyer de notre territoire de diffusion. C'était mon objectif il y a 40 ans, et il demeure bien vivant aujourd'hui.

Quels sont les favoris du Pontiac?

LYNNE LAVERY

PONTIAC – Le vote est maintenant ouvert pour les prix du Choix des lecteurs 2026, offrant aux résidents l'occasion de reconnaître leurs entreprises, organismes et leaders communautaires préférés de la région.

Maintenant à sa 11e édition, le concours annuel célèbre les personnes et les entreprises qui contribuent à faire du Pontiac un endroit dynamique pour y vivre, travailler et magasiner. Les lecteurs peuvent voter dans 32 catégories, notamment les restaurants et l'alimentation, les services professionnels, les activités, le magasinage et les nouvelles entreprises.

Les prix mettent également en valeur les organismes de services communautaires de

la région ainsi que la catégorie vedette de cette année, qui reconnaît la meilleure entreprise de longue date du Pontiac, soit une entreprise au service de la communauté depuis plus de 25 ans.

Les lecteurs peuvent voter en remplissant le bulletin publié à la page 21 de cette édition ou en ligne au www.journalpontiac.com. Les trois finalistes de chaque catégorie seront honorés le 22 septembre lors d'une célébration où les gagnants seront dévoilés.

En prime, toutes les personnes qui soumettront un bulletin de vote courront la chance de gagner une carte-cadeau Visa de 100 \$.

Ne manquez pas l'occasion de faire entendre votre voix et de célébrer le meilleur du Pontiac!

Who's Pontiac's best?

LYNNE LAVERY

PONTIAC – Voting is now open for the 2026 Readers' Choice Awards, giving residents another opportunity to recognize their favourite businesses, organizations and community leaders across the Pontiac.

Now in its 11th year, the annual contest celebrates the people and businesses that help make the region a vibrant place to live, work and shop. Readers can cast their votes in 32 categories, including restaurants and food, professional services, activities, shopping and new businesses.

The awards also shine a spotlight on community service organizations throughout the region, as well as this year's featured category recognizing the Pontiac's best long-standing business — one that has served

the community for more than 25 years.

Readers can vote by completing the ballot found on page 21 of this edition or online at www.pontiacjournal.com. Voting offers residents a chance to support local businesses and acknowledge the people behind them.

The top three nominees in each category will be recognized at a celebration on Sept. 22, where category winners will be announced. Nominees will also receive award certificates to display at their businesses and organizations.

As an added incentive, everyone who submits a ballot will be entered for a chance to win a \$100 Visa gift card.

Don't miss your chance to make your voice heard and celebrate the best the Pontiac has to offer.

Les gagnants de chacune des 32 catégories de l'édition 2025 des Prix Choix du lecteur du Journal du Pontiac.

Winners of each of the 32 categories in the 2025 edition of the Pontiac Journal Reader's Choice Awards.



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VOTEZ MAINTENANT! ~ VOTE NOW!**Le vote en ligne débutera le 15 juin.****Online voting will start June 15th****Votez maintenant et vous pourriez gagner un certificat-cadeau Visa de 100\$!!*****Vote now and you could win a \$100 Visa Gift Card!!*****Règlements et détails :** Un seul coupon de participation par personne.

Votre nom doit apparaître sur le coupon de participation (courriel optionnel).

Inscrire une (1) seule mise en candidature par ligne disponible dans chaque catégorie.

Envoyez votre coupon au : Journal du Pontiac,

5-289, rue Principale (rte 148), Mansfield, QC J0X 1R0.

La date limite est le 25 août 2026. Consultez le Journal du Pontiac pour connaître les résultats et profiter du meilleur du Pontiac!

*Seules les inscriptions complètes sont admissibles au prix de 100 \$.

**Rules & Details :** Only one vote per person. Name must appear on the ballot (email optional). One (1) nomination per category. Send your ballot to: Pontiac Journal, 5-289, rue Principale (rte 148), Mansfield, QC J0X 1R0.

Deadline to submit is August 25, 2026.

Watch for the results in the Pontiac Journal - and enjoy the Best of the Pontiac!

*Only entries fully completed will be eligible for the \$100 prize.

UNE SEULE PARTICIPATION PAR PERSONNE. / ONE ENTRY PER PERSON.

Nom / Name:

Courriel (optionel) / Email :

Votez pour vos préférés dans le Pontiac en soumettant le coupon de participation ci-dessous.

Le concours est en vigueur du 15 juin jusqu'au 25 août.

Vote for your favorites in Pontiac by submitting the entry form below. The contest runs from June 15 to August 25.

REPAS – FOOD:

Restaurant préféré - Favourite restaurant

Meilleur brunch/petit-déjeuner
Best brunch/Breakfast

Meilleure poutine – Best poutine

Meilleure pizza – Best pizza

Meilleures ailes de poulet – Best chicken wings

Meilleure Burger – Best hamburger

Meilleure crème glacée – Best ice cream

PROFESSIONNELS – PROFESSIONALS:Meilleur professionnel : médecin, avocat, notaire, agent immobilier, politicien etc.
Best professional : doctor, lawyer, notary, real estate agent politician etc.

Meilleur artiste - Best artist

Meilleur musicien/groupe - Best musician/band

Le meilleur endroit pour se faire dorloter – Best place to be pampered

MÉTIERS – TRADES:

Meilleur couvreur – Best roofer

Meilleur électricien – Best electrician

Meilleur plombier - Best plumber

Meilleur mécanicien général/garage – Best general mechanic/garage

Chauffage et climatisation – Heating and cooling

Meilleur entrepreneur général – Best general contractor

ACHATS – SHOPPING:

Meilleure quincaillerie – Best hardware store

Meilleur Dépanneur – Best Dépanneur

Meilleure entreprise autochtone - Best Indigenous Business

Meilleur magasin général – Best general merchandise

Meilleure jardinerie - Best Garden Centre

Meilleurs produits de boulangerie - Best baked goods

Meilleur marché (marché fermier, marché de Noël, etc.) - Best market (farmers' market, Christmas market, etc.)

ACTIVITÉS – ACTIVITIES:Entreprise touristique ou récréatives
Favourite Tourist or recreation business

Meilleur parc ou terrain de jeux – Best park or play-ground

Meilleure endroit ou organisation pour les activités des aînés – Best place or organization for seniors' activities

DIVERS – MISC:Meilleure organisation de service communautaire dans le Haut-Pontiac
Best community service organization in Upper PontiacMeilleure organisation de service communautaire dans le Centre du Pontiac
Best community service organization in Central PontiacMeilleure organisation de service communautaire dans l'Est du Pontiac
Best community service organization in Eastern Pontiac

Meilleure nouvelle entreprise – Best new business (3 years or less)

EN VEDETTE – FEATURE CATEGORY:Meilleure entreprise établie depuis 25 ans ou plus
Best Long Standing Business (25+ years)

CONGRATS D.W.K.S. GRADUATES 2026

D.W.K.S. - THE SMALL SCHOOL WITH THE BIG HEART!

Dr. Wilbert Keon school celebrates Class of 2026



The DWKS Class of 2026 each received an award from Carrefour jeunesse Emploi du Pontiac (CJEP). From left: Ashton Frost, Jarret Dayment, Madison Labonte-Dick, Layla Bowen, Donavon Gagnon, Brooklynn Fleury, Jacob Gale (CJEP), Phillippe Kaldi, Aidan McCann, Travis Keon, and Kaysen Stone. Missing from photo: Cassidy Turner.

PETER L. SMITH

L'ISLE-AUX-ALLUMETTES – Students, staff, family members and community supporters gathered at Dr. Wilbert Keon (DWKS) School on June 20 to celebrate the Class of 2026 and recognize student achievement during the school's annual graduation ceremony. The event, held in the Dr. Harold Keon Gymnasium, featured a meal provided by Ullrich's Catering,

speeches from students and community members, and the presentation of numerous awards. The graduating class included Layla Bowen, Jarret Dayment, Brooklynn Fleury, Ashton Frost, Donavon Gagnon, Phillippe Kaldi, Travis Keon, Madison Labonte-Dick, Aidan McCann, Kaysen Stone and Cassidy Turner.

Valedictorian Kaysen Stone said he found a welcoming school community after arriving at Dr. Wilbert Keon School for

| DWKS CLASS OF 2026 Graduates & Awards | |
|---|--|
| Layla Bowen Knights of Columbus Municipality of L'Isle-aux-Allumettes Frank Carroll Insurance Carrefour jeunesse-Emploi du Pontiac | Travis Keon Support Staff Award Karl's Bakery Municipality of Chichester Carrefour jeunesse-emploi du Pontiac |
| Jarret Dayment Chapeau & District Lions Club Municipality of L'Isle-aux-Allumettes Fleury Electric Carrefour jeunesse-emploi du Pontiac | Madison Labonte-Dick Resilience Award Municipality of L'Isle-aux-Allumettes M. Kidd & Sons Promutuel Assurance Brookfield Power/Evolugen Principal & Teachers Carrefour jeunesse-emploi du Pontiac |
| Brooklynn Fleury Politeness Award Perseverance Award Media Award Armand Emond Art Award Municipality of L'Isle-aux-Allumettes Carrefour jeunesse-emploi du Pontiac | Aidan McCann Outdoor Education Award Chapeau Minor Hockey Municipality of Sheenboro Maurice Beauregard Community & Leadership Carrefour jeunesse-emploi du Pontiac |
| Ashton Frost Municipality of Waltham Carrefour jeunesse-emploi du Pontiac | Kaysen Stone Valedictorian English Award Knights of Columbus Municipality of Chichester LaSalle Bus Lines Heritage Photo (3rd) Carrefour jeunesse-emploi du Pontiac |
| Donavon Gagnon Hansen Award of Distinction Municipality of L'Isle-aux-Allumettes Carrefour jeunesse-emploi du Pontiac | Cassidy Turner L'Ancienne Banque Carrefour jeunesse-emploi du Pontiac |
| Phillippe Kaldi Chapeau & District Lions Club L'Ancienne Banque Municipality of L'Isle-aux-Allumettes Carrefour jeunesse-emploi du Pontiac | |

his final year. "DWKS has been a turning point and a new chapter in my life that I will look back on fondly because of the memories we were able to make as a class," he said, noting the friendliness of staff and the school's strong sense of community. Stone also thanked retiring teachers Lori Collin and Karen McPherson for their dedication to students. — "DWKS" p. 26

L'École Dr Wilbert Keon célèbre la promotion 2026

PETER L. SMITH

L'ISLE-AUX-ALLUMETTES – Des élèves, des membres du personnel, des familles et des membres de la communauté se sont réunis à l'École Dr Wilbert Keon (DWKS), le 20 juin, pour célébrer la promotion 2026 et souligner la réussite des élèves lors de la cérémonie annuelle de

remise des prix de l'école. L'événement, tenu au gymnase Dr Harold Keon, comprenait un repas préparé par Ullrich's Catering, des discours prononcés par des élèves et des membres de la communauté, ainsi que la remise de nombreux prix. Les finissants étaient Layla Bowen, Jarret Dayment, Brooklynn Fleury, Ashton Frost, Donavon Gagnon, Phillippe Kaldi, Travis Keon,

Madison Labonte-Dick, Aidan McCann, Kaysen Stone et Cassidy Turner.

Le major de promotion, Kaysen Stone, a expliqué qu'il avait trouvé une communauté scolaire accueillante à son arrivée à l'École Dr Wilbert Keon pour sa dernière année d'études. « DWKS a marqué un tournant et le début d'un nouveau chapitre de ma vie dont je garderai d'excellents

souvenirs grâce aux moments que nous avons vécus ensemble comme classe », a-t-il déclaré, soulignant la gentillesse du personnel et le fort esprit communautaire de l'école.

Il a également remercié les enseignantes prenant leur retraite, Lori Collin et Karen McPherson, pour leur dévouement envers les élèves. — Suite en p. 23

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Director General - Alicia Jones

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Municipalité de Chichester
Municipality



Mayor Donald Gagnon & Councillors
Director General - Alicia Jones

CONGRATS D.W.K.S. GRADUATES 2026

D.W.K.S. - THE SMALL SCHOOL WITH THE BIG HEART!

Grade 6 students bid farewell to elementary school



The DWKS Grade 6 Class of 2026 poses for a graduation photo. Back row, from left, are Ella Sullivan, Layla Laforge, Nia McGuire, Kinslee Lepine, Asher O'Dell, Walker Denault, Quinn Murdock and Greyson O'Brien. Middle row: Alyssa Lepine, Maverick Mousseau, Issac Dennique, Camden Kerr and Hudson Denault. Front row: Isaac Vaillancourt and Wilson Turner. (Submitted)

PETER L. SMITH

L'ISLE-AUX-ALLUMETTES

Students, staff, family members and friends gathered at Dr. Wilbert Keon School (DWKS) on June 18 to celebrate the Grade 6 Class of 2026 during a special graduation ceremony held in the elementary school auditorium.

The ceremony recognized students' achievements as they prepare to begin high school in the fall. Each graduate received a diploma, while several students were also presented with special awards recognizing their accomplishments.

Teachers Klinda Brennan and Russell Dennis and educator



Amanda Ranger worked tirelessly with students to support their growth and development throughout the school year. Principal Allison McLaughlin congratulated the graduates on their hard work and encouraged them as they prepared for the next stage of their education.

"We can't change the weather, but we can dance in the rain. Work hard, play hard," McLaughlin said, encouraging graduates to

embrace future challenges with optimism.

Graduates Ella Sullivan, Quinn Murdock, Isaac Vaillancourt, Layla Laforge, and Kinslee Lepine shared memories of their elementary school years and reflected on the friendships and experiences they will carry with them into high school.

Following the ceremony, the class celebrated with cake and refreshments alongside family, friends and school staff.



DWKS — de la p. 22

Au nom de l'équipe de leadership de l'école, Aidan McCann a parlé de l'importance du leadership et de l'engagement communautaire. « Un véritable leader ne cherche pas à s'élever au-dessus des autres; il cherche à les élever avec lui », a-t-il affirmé, ajoutant que le leadership se mesure à l'impact positif que l'on a sur les autres.

La représentante des parents, Cyndy

Phillips, a félicité les finissants et les a encouragés à poursuivre leur chemin avec courage, bienveillance et générosité. La directrice, Mme Allison McLaughlin, a salué la persévérance et l'épanouissement des finissants, leur rappelant qu'ils avaient découvert des forces qu'ils ne soupçonnaient pas posséder. Elle a également remercié les enseignants de les avoir mis au défi, soutenus

et inspirés tout au long de leur parcours scolaire, soulignant que la réussite des élèves est le fruit d'une communauté scolaire soudée.

La cérémonie a permis de souligner la réussite scolaire, le leadership, la persévérance et l'engagement communautaire des finissants grâce à une variété de prix remis par des organismes locaux et des partenaires de l'école. (Trad. JP)

Municipalité de Waltham Municipality



Mayor Jordan Evans & Councillors, Interim Director General - Brigitte Lafrenière

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CONGRATS D.W.K.S. GRADUATES

D.W.K.S. - THE SMALL SCHOOL WITH THE BIG HEART!



DWKS Grade 6 team wins big at Destination Imagination

PETER L. SMITH

GATINEAU – Students from Dr. Wilbert Keon School (DWKS) earned top honours at the Western Quebec School Board's (WQSB) Destination Imagination (DI) competition, held March 27 at Symmes Junior & D'Arcy McGee High Schools in Gatineau.

The Grade 6 team earned the Da Vinci Award and achieved the highest score in its instant challenge, while the Grade 5 team, Hippo-Pickle-Camp — Leo Loback, Lincoln Gagnon, Lina Barone, Callie Breen, Alexis Fleury and Zoe Gaudette — led by Keara Kidd, placed third and received the Spirit of DI Award. Both teams competed in the Scientific Challenge, exploring

the science of memory and the theatrical art of deception.

Senior secondary Destination Leadership students Sebastien Vermette and Cayden Arsic supported the event as ambassadors and role models by helping facilitate instant challenges and activities and organizing a special activity, Titanic, for younger students.

The DI teams met biweekly for about 12 weeks to prepare for the competition.

Destination Imagination is a STEAM-based program that develops creative thinking, critical thinking, public speaking and problem-solving skills through collaborative, open-ended challenges.



The Grade 6 team, Scientific Nerds, received the Da Vinci Award and achieved the highest score in the instant challenge. Pictured from left are coach Russell Dennis, Nia McGuire, Maverick Mousseau, Issac Dennique, Asher O'Dell, Wilson Turner and Ella Sullivan. (Submitted)

Retiring educators leave lasting legacy at DWKS

PETER L. SMITH

L'ISLE-AUX-ALLUMETTES – The end

of the 2025-26 school year marked the final days in the classroom for two longtime educators at

Dr. Wilbert Keon School (DWKS).

Lori Collin and Karen McPherson are retiring after lengthy careers in education. Collin spent many years teaching French and history, while McPherson reflected on a career that began more than three decades ago and eventually brought her back to the classroom as a teacher.

McPherson said she began her career after moving to Sheenboro in 1990, first working as a junior

kindergarten teacher in Chapeau before serving as a special education technician and educational assistant. After raising her children, she earned her teaching degree from the University of Ottawa and has now spent the past 20 years teaching at DWKS.

During that time, she worked under five principals and participated in professional development opportunities that took her to conferences in Montreal, Quebec City and even Kansas City.

"I have always had a passion for learning and working with teenagers, even with the challenges along the way," McPherson said.

Reflecting on the profession, McPherson said teaching has changed dramatically over the years. She noted that educators are now expected to develop much of their own classroom material while ensuring it aligns with the Quebec Education Program, all while supporting students with a wide range of academic, social and emotional needs.

"Today's educators face significant demands from a complex educational landscape," she said. "They wear many hats, meeting



Teachers Lori Collin, left, and Karen McPherson mark their retirements at Dr. Wilbert Keon School following the conclusion of the 2025-26 school year.

(Submitted)

diverse learning needs and abilities, fostering students' social and emotional development, and continually assessing and evaluating learning."

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CONGRATS D.W.K.S. GRADUATES 2026

D.W.K.S. - THE SMALL SCHOOL WITH THE BIG HEART!

DWKS Spring Celebration of Learning showcases student talents

PETER L. SMITH

L'ISLE-AUX-ALLUMETTES – Students, teachers, and staff at Dr. Wilbert Keon School (DWKS) gathered May 14 to celebrate and showcase the many accomplishments of the school community during its annual Spring Celebration of Learning.

The school was open to the public, allowing visitors to tour the building, view student projects and the artwork displayed throughout the halls. Students in Mrs. Klinda Brennan's Grade 5-6 class researched local history and created a series of dioramas, while other classes prepared displays in the auditorium and throughout the school.

Principal Allison McLaughlin addressed those in attendance, prais-

ing both students and staff. "We're proud of our students. Their ability to learn, their creativity, resilience, and spirit shine in everything they do," said McLaughlin. "We see potential in each student and support, nurture, and walk alongside them as they grow. Our staff go the extra mile with their commitment to students. There is a sense of teamwork and a strong school culture at DWKS."

Several community organizations and local businesses participated in the event. Carrefour jeunesse-emploi du Pontiac distributed information packages to students, while members of the Pontiac Ouest Fire Safety Service demonstrated various pieces of firefighting equipment.

Local farmer Justin O'Brien of Edward O'Brien & Sons Farms showcased farm equipment, bringing a tractor and round baler for display. Jeremy Nephin had his log truck on site for students and visitors to explore.

Students enjoyed a variety of activities, including inflatable bouncy castles, a petting zoo, a rock-climbing wall, and games in the gym. High school music students, accompanied by teacher Louis Schryer, entertained the crowd with a selection of vocal performances and guitar tunes.

Visitors also enjoyed a pizza meal. Keith Welland won the 50/50 draw, with proceeds supporting the



High school music students entertain visitors during Dr. Wilbert Keon School's Spring Celebration of Learning on May 14.

DWKS Coyote Kitchen, which provides low-cost meals for students on a regular basis.

Another draw was held for a barbecue donated by Madison Labonté-Dick's Independent Project (IP) in support of Dinners for Donors.

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Principal Allison McLaughlin, Teachers, Staff.



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CONGRATS D.W.K.S. GRADUATES

D.W.K.S. - THE SMALL SCHOOL WITH THE BIG HEART!



SAPLING DONATION TAKES ROOT AT DWKS

Grade 6 students at Dr. Wilbert Keon School in L'Isle-aux-Allumettes are helping grow the region's forest canopy after Pontiac Ouest—the municipalities of Chichester and L'Isle-aux-Allumettes—donated 50 sugar maple saplings to the school. The trees were supplied by Quebec's Ministry of Natural Resources and Forests as part of the Month of Trees and Forests, celebrated each May. Additional saplings were distributed free of charge to residents during Pontiac Ouest's Tree Day at the Chichester and L'Isle-aux-Allumettes transfer sites on May 30. Students in Mr. Gareth's Outdoor Education class planted some of the saplings on the school grounds and took others home to plant, helping promote environmental stewardship and sustainable forest management.

-Peter L. Smith

PHOTO: Mr. Gareth's Grade 6 Outdoor Education students plant sugar maple saplings on the DWKS grounds, June 8.

(DWKS)



DWKS ART STUDENTS EXPLORE DECOUPAGE

Twenty Grades 7 and 8 art students from Dr. Wilbert Keon School (DWKS) participated in a decoupage workshop led by artist Peggy Shannon at the Chapeau Regional Gallery on May 26. Students learned the decorative art of applying paper cutouts and other embellishments to create unique works of art. Their finished projects were displayed at the gallery, where students also toured the exhibits and explored historical displays highlighting the region.

-Peter L. Smith

PHOTO: DWKS students prepare decoupage projects during a workshop led by artist Peggy Shannon at the Chapeau Regional Gallery.

DWKS — from p. 22

Speaking on behalf of the school's leadership team, Aidan McCann discussed the importance of leadership and community involvement. "True leadership isn't about standing above others; it's about lifting

others up," he said, adding that leadership is measured by the positive impact people have on others.

Parent representative Cyndy Phillips congratulated graduates and encouraged them to move forward with courage, kindness and generosity. Principal Allison

McLaughlin praised the graduating class for its perseverance and growth, telling students they had discovered strengths they did not know they possessed. She also thanked teachers for challenging, supporting and inspiring students throughout their educational journey, noting that

student success is the result of a strong school community working together.

The ceremony recognized graduates for their academic achievement, leadership, perseverance and community involvement through a variety of awards presented by local organizations and school supporters.

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SHINE ON GRADS!

Carrefour jeunesse-emploi looks ahead with new leadership, new initiatives

WILLIAM DALE

CAMPBELL'S BAY – The Carrefour jeunesse-emploi du Pontiac (CJEP) highlighted new initiatives, stable employment services and continued community impact during its annual general meeting (AGM) on June 25, held under the theme *S'adapter aux vents du changement, s'élever vers la réussite* (Adapting to the winds of change, rising toward success). The meeting also marked the first AGM led by new Executive Director Jessica Kelly.

Kelly said the transition into the role was eased by years of working alongside former executive director Karim El Kerch, first as a coordinator beginning in 2020 and later as interim director. She credited the CJEP staff and board of directors for ensuring a seamless handover, noting that strong organizational continuity helped streamline preparation of the organization's annual report and financial statements.

Among the year's new initiatives is a localized carpooling mobile app designed to help address transportation barriers facing local job seekers. The organization is also preparing to launch *À l'écoute du Pontiac*, a podcast intended to encourage discussion around local issues, including housing, workforce retention and immigration.

The annual report also highlighted the organization's ongoing services. Employment support services continued to see steady demand, with 61 per cent of clients being male, 60 per cent aged 36 or older, and an almost even split between francophone and anglophone clients. More than one-third of program participants had not completed Secondary 5.

The *Sortir du bois* social integration program welcomed 23 participants, who completed 10,383 hours of work. Program-generated revenue covered 20 per cent of participant wages. Meanwhile, *Place aux jeunes* provided one-on-one support to 78



Participants gather outside the CJEP following the organization's 2025–26 annual general meeting in Campbell's Bay.

prospective immigrants and helped facilitate seven permanent relocations to the Pontiac. The financial literacy program delivered 316 hours of training to 270 local youth and recorded a 97 per cent satisfaction rate.

The meeting also featured testimonials from participants. Kory Beaudry said the CJEP helped him obtain his driver's licence, allowing him to overcome transportation

barriers to employment, while Jean-Yves Ethier said he "always feels respected" when accessing the organization's services.

The AGM concluded with a tribute to former executive director Karim El Kerch for his years of leadership. The organization will continue into the coming year under the leadership of Board President Richard Marenger and Executive Director Jessica Kelly.

CISSSO changes name to Santé Québec Outaouais

DRAZEN SESLIJA

OUTAOUAIS – The Centre intégré de santé et de services sociaux de l'Outaouais (CISSSO) has a new name. As of June 15, the organization became Santé Québec Outaouais (SQO) as part of a provincial initiative aimed at standardizing the identities of institutions within the health and social services network.

This change is part of an effort to make the network easier for Quebecers to understand. All 30 institutions are now adopting a uniform name to identify and recognize them throughout Quebec.

"A network that's easier to understand is easier to navigate. By standardizing our terminology, we provide users with consistent guidance throughout Quebec.

This is a concrete expression of a single network, a shared mission, and a common commitment to the public," said Julie Lussier, vice president of public affairs and communications at Santé Québec.

The rebranding also represents an opportunity to increase the organization's visibility.

"Becoming Santé Québec Outaouais

makes our organization more visible and accessible to the people we support daily," said Dr. Marc Bilodeau, president and CEO of SQO. "Although the name is changing, we remain the same: a community-based organization committed every day to the citizens of the Outaouais," he added.

The name change takes effect as the network continues its transformation under the leadership of Santé Québec, which coordinates Quebec's public health and social services network.

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Volunteer drivers sought to bring seniors' transportation program to Pontiac

WILLIAM DALE

PONTIAC – Des Collines Seniors' Services has launched a new volunteer accompaniment and transportation program and is seeking volunteer drivers to expand the service into the Municipality of Pontiac.

"This is not a taxi service or a public transportation service," said Missipsa Amara, project co-ordinator for community mobilization and development. "It is a volunteer-based accompaniment service. The difference is the human connection. A volunteer does not simply drive someone from one place to another; they offer presence, kindness, reassurance and support."

The program matches seniors with volunteer drivers who provide transportation and accompaniment for medical appointments, grocery shopping and other essential errands. Amara said volunteers are paired with clients based on availability and individual needs, helping seniors remain independent and connected to their community. The program currently

operates in La Pêche, Chelsea and L'Ange-Gardien.

"This is where we currently have volunteer drivers available," Amara said. "However, we would love to expand the service to other municipalities in the MRC des Collines—including the Municipality of Pontiac—as soon as we have more volunteer drivers in those areas."

The organization says the program is designed to fit easily into volunteers' schedules. Drivers choose when they are available, the areas they are willing to serve and are under no obligation to accept every request. Mileage is fully reimbursed.

"We often say that a small gesture can have a big impact," Amara said. "In this case, a simple ride can help preserve a senior's independence, reduce isolation and strengthen the sense of community."

Residents interested in volunteering can contact Amara at projets@servicesauxaines.org or call 1-855-662-4637, ext. 248. More information is available at servicesauxaines.org.



PONTIAC FATHERS IN FOCUS

Local photographer Jody Koch opened her first solo exhibition, *Pères du Pontiac*, at artPontiac's Stone School Gallery in Portage-du-Fort on June 18. The exhibition features photographs celebrating the relationships between Pontiac fathers and their children and continues until July 9. Created in partnership with AutonHomme Pontiac, it pairs Koch's photographs with five short documentary films by filmmaker Marie France Laval as part of the *Pères en lumière* project. The initiative highlights the important role fathers play in family and community life while reflecting AutonHomme Pontiac's mission of supporting families in the region. The exhibition also reflects artPontiac's mission of promoting local artists and showcasing the stories that define the Pontiac.

-Dale Shutt

PHOTO: Pictured from left, photographer Jody Koch, filmmaker Marie France Laval, Jean Paulin of AutonHomme, Marie Gionet of MRC Pontiac, and Pierre-Alain Jones of AutonHomme attending the June 18 opening of *Pères du Pontiac* at artPontiac's Stone School Gallery.

HONOURING INDIGENOUS CULTURE AND TRADITION

The Chapeau Regional Gallery hosted a National Indigenous Peoples Day celebration on June 24, welcoming community members to learn about Indigenous culture, traditions and history. Patsea Griffin, a member of the Métis Nation of Ontario with Algonquin and French Voyageur ancestry, performed drumming, song and poetry, while Aimee Bailey of the Circle of Turtle Lodge read from *Anishnabe 101* before leading a sage purification (smudging) ceremony. In the photo, Bailey performs the smudging ceremony for MRC Pontiac Warden Jane Toller. Visitors also viewed the gallery's Indigenous art exhibition and enjoyed bannock.

-Peter L. Smith



40th — from p. 7

The Pontiac (not J-schools) provided candidates for these jobs, willing to work hard for minimal pay rates while they learned the trade. Original employees, like Louise Donaldson, Peter Smith, Lily Ryan, Nancy Hunt, Christiane Côté, Robert Wills, Richard Ledbetter, Lynne Lavery, Dana Bertrand, Bonnie Zimmerling and more have been part of this great adventure. Some are still with us and many have left for other pursuits over the years. We now have new faces and names: Alison Gerow, Bonnie Portelance, William Dale, Suzanne Dazé, Ginette Adam, Angela McKellar, Dale Shutt, Cliff Welsh, Cathy Fox, Cheryl Dolan and other community reporters. They are all working to maintain the original mandate of the *Journal*, bringing local news, in both official languages, to every household within our readership area. That was my goal, 40 years ago, and it is still going strong.

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MUSICAL RIDE, INDIGENOUS DANCERS HIGHLIGHT OTTER LAKE'S 150TH

Hundreds gathered at the Otter Lake Recreation Association grounds June 20 to celebrate the municipality's 150th anniversary with an afternoon of Indigenous culture and Canadian tradition.

The celebration, part of Otter Lake's year-long sesquicentennial festivities, featured performances by Algonquin cultural teaching stewards from Pikwakanagan First Nation, who showcased traditional drumming and dancing highlighting the area's Indigenous heritage. Dancers performed a variety of traditional styles, offering spectators an opportunity to learn about customs that predate the municipality's 150-year history.

The festivities concluded with a performance by the RCMP Musical Ride. Fifteen mounted RCMP officers and their horses performed intricate cavalry formations and drills, drawing enthusiastic applause from the large crowd gathered around the ring. The Musical Ride, one of Canada's best-known equestrian traditions, combines precision horsemanship with ceremonial pageantry while promoting positive community relationships across the country.

The day also featured a community market, local vendors and a barbecue, bringing residents and visitors together to celebrate Otter Lake's past, present and future as part of the municipality's anniversary celebrations.

-William Dale

PHOTO: Members of the RCMP Musical Ride perform at the Otter Lake RA grounds as part of the municipality's 150th anniversary celebrations on June 20.

Language policy — from p. 6

Fortin said the policy would help newcomers integrate more quickly into Quebec society and the workforce.

The Liberal approach would also maintain current enrollment levels in English-language CEGEPs while strengthening French instruction. Fortin said the party would seek ways to resolve ongoing legal disputes involving English school boards.

Fortin expressed concern about the Parti Québécois' commitment to holding a referendum on Quebec sovereignty should the party win the provincial election in October.

"Right now, we have to pull together and strive for unity, given the economic and political threats coming from the USA," said Fortin, who also criticized the Coalition Avenir Québec's (CAQ) efforts to again develop a Quebec constitution, arguing First Nations, anglophone communities, immigrants, and other minority groups have not been adequately consulted.

"By creating a constitution, they hope to find ways to further incorporate restrictions on the use of English in the province," he said.

When asked what the CAQ government has done for the Pontiac region during its eight years in office, Fortin replied, "Nothing. The minister responsible for the Pontiac hasn't set foot in the Pontiac in years."

Fortin also commented on the new hospital project in Gatineau, noting staffing

remains one of the largest challenges once construction is complete.

"We need to attract doctors, nurses, orderlies, radiologists, and laboratory technicians," he said. "To do that, we have to finance training opportunities and pay healthcare workers adequately so they stay in Quebec instead of crossing into Ontario for better wages."

Fortin argued the CAQ government is restricting entry into nursing programs and isn't paying healthcare workers enough to remain in the province.

Housing affordability was another issue raised. Fortin said the Outaouais population has grown significantly while housing construction has failed to keep pace with demand.

"The CAQ budget isn't providing the funding needed for new housing construction," he said. "Some kind of rent controls may have to be imposed."

Fortin added that pressure on the housing market has increased as some seniors' residences have closed, forcing residents to seek housing elsewhere in the community.

"There is no adequate plan available from this government to solve this issue," he said. "The Liberal plan is to build 100,000 homes every year, not the 30,000 the CAQ proposes. We have to make home ownership affordable again."

Fortin said he will be announcing events throughout the summer as the pre-election period begins ahead of the provincial election in October.

Fundraising continues for Chapeau bowling alley repairs

PETER L. SMITH

L'ISLE-AUX-ALLUMETTES

Fundraising continues to replace the aging automatic pinsetters at the two-lane bowling alley in the basement of the Harrington Community Centre. The current pinsetters, purchased used in 2000, barely carried the Chapeau Bowling League through the season as mechanical problems mounted. The facility is the area's only bowling alley and is also rented throughout the year for community events.

League organizers are raising funds and seeking grants to help cover the \$46,000 cost of new automatic pinsetters, which have already been ordered. Last month, the committee sold 678 tickets in a raffle for a 2026 Polaris Ranger XP 1000 side-by-side with a plow in



Gene O'Brien bowls as Derek Burnison prepares for his turn during league play at the Harrington Community Centre.

partnership with Campbell's Allumettes. The Harrington Community Centre is operated by a non-profit volunteer organization. Romain of L'Isle-aux-

Pembroke Multicultural Festival

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FRIDAY July 17 4 - 8 PM

SATURDAY July 18 12 - 8PM

PONTIAC FARMERS



PONTIAC PULLER POWERS INTO EGANVILLE

Competitors and spectators gathered at the Eganville Sno-Drifters Club June 27–28 for the annual North Algona Wilberforce Truck and Tractor Pull and Demolition Derby. Hosted by the Township of North Algona Wilberforce and the North Algona Wilberforce Recreation Association, the weekend featured truck, tractor and lawn tractor pulls, a demolition derby, vendors, children's activities and food concessions. Among the competitors was L'Isle-aux-Allumettes' Louis Giroux, who competed in the 6,200-pound four-wheel-drive truck class with a 1979 Chevrolet K30 he and his father, Bobby, built from the ground up. The truck is powered by a 475-cubic-inch big-block Chevrolet engine producing about 700 horsepower. Giroux competes with the White Water Truck and Tractor Pullers.

-Peter L. Smith

PHOTO: L'Isle-aux-Allumettes' Louis Giroux (right) poses with his father, Bobby Giroux, and mother, Gail Rivet, beside the family's 1979 Chevrolet K30 at the North Algona Wilberforce Truck and Tractor Pull.



FOOD FESTIVAL SERVES UP LOCAL FLAVOUR

More than 50 food and craft vendors took part in the inaugural Ottawa Valley Food Festival at the Petawawa Civic Centre on May 30 and 31. Hosted by Valley Markets and Events, the free event celebrated local small businesses and a variety of culinary traditions. The arena floor was filled with vendors offering food, baked goods and handcrafted products. Among them was Thai Gardens of Pembroke, which served menu favourites, including chicken pad thai, throughout the weekend. Also exhibiting was Couture Cravings of L'Isle-aux-Allumettes, operated by Christal Celine Loback and her husband, Evan, who specialize in buttercream cakes and desserts.

Family activities included face painting and balloon animals, while live music was provided by Ghost Buskers and Homemade Jam, featuring Lisa Swabrick Gambell and her husband, Alan, who own a cottage in Chichester. Cheryl Smith-Trimmm and volunteers also sold raffle tickets for a chance to win tickets to an August Blue Jays game, with proceeds supporting the Kendyl Smith-Trimmm Caring for Kids Endowment Fund for CHEO. The event also collected donations for the Petawawa Pantry Food Bank.

-Peter L. Smith

PHOTO: Christal Celine Loback and her husband, Evan, of Couture Cravings display their homemade baked goods during the Ottawa Valley Food Festival at the Petawawa Civic Centre.



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PONTIAC FARMERS

Le Jardin Éducatif grows for the future

WILLIAM DALE

CAMPBELL'S BAY – Le Jardin Éducatif du Pontiac (JEP) highlighted infrastructure projects, youth programming, food security initiatives and advocacy efforts during its virtual annual general meeting on June 16, marking another year of supporting youth across the Pontiac.

Following the meeting, Director Martin Riopel discussed the organization's newly released 2025–26 annual report, outlining recent achievements and priorities for the year ahead. Now in its 37th year, the Campbell's Bay-based organization continues its mission of helping prevent school and social dropout among youth aged eight to 17.

Riopel said one of JEP's most significant long-term projects remains the



Participants in Le Jardin Éducatif du Pontiac's seven-week ecological gardening summer camp harvest produce at the organization's Litchfield site. (JEP)

development of its facilities. Construction of a new 32-by-130-foot greenhouse and an adjacent 40-by-40-foot building encountered delays over the past year but is expected to be completed during the 2026–27 fiscal year, expanding both agricultural production and learning opportunities.

Over the past year, JEP supported 189 students and

their families through academic coaching, psychosocial support and addiction prevention programs delivered in partnership with the Western Québec School Board and the Centre de services scolaire des Hauts-Bois-de-l'Outaouais.

The organization also continued its contribution to regional food security,

donating 1,541 pounds of organic fruits and vegetables to Bouffe Pontiac, valued at \$5,813. JEP generated more than \$44,000 in self-funding revenue through its annual barbecue, kiosk sales and seasonal lawn-care contracts for municipal and community properties.

The annual report also highlighted the challenges facing independent community organizations across Quebec. With the support of its board of directors, JEP joined the provincewide *Le communautaire à boutte* campaign, calling for increased mission-based funding, improved working conditions and greater recognition of community organizations' autonomy.

Looking ahead, JEP has launched its seven-week ecological gardening summer camp, welcoming approximately 30 youth to

its Litchfield site under the guidance of a 14-member staff. The organization will also host its annual community barbecue on

Wednesday, Aug. 5, where residents will have an opportunity to support JEP's programs and see the participants' work firsthand.

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Former mayor Brent Orr returns to Bristol council



Former mayor Brent Orr is returning to Bristol council after winning a seat in the June 28 byelection.

(Submitted)

WILLIAM DALE

BRISTOL – Former Bristol mayor Brent Orr is returning to municipal politics after narrowly winning the June 28 byelection for seat 4 on Bristol council. Orr received 212 votes (50.36 per cent), defeating Alex Mahon with 199 votes (47.27 per cent) and Christine Rybak with 10 votes (2.38 per cent). The byelection was held to fill the vacancy left by Greg Graham's departure.

Voter turnout was 37.77 per cent, with 421 valid ballots cast from 1,120 registered electors. Two ballots were rejected. Orr edged out Mahon by 13 votes, securing a new role as councillor and bringing him back to the Bristol municipal table.

TWO LEGENDS, ONE CAUSE UNITES COMMUNITY

The Pontiac community came together at the Campbell's Bay Recreation Centre June 27 to support the families of Steve Morin and Charlie Frost, who were killed in a snowmobile collision on Jim's Lake Rd. in late January. Organized by the Pontiac Lions Club, the Two Legends, One Cause fundraiser celebrated the lives of the two men while raising money for their wives and children. The tragedy deeply affected the Pontiac community and prompted an outpouring of support.

The day featured a pickleball tournament, a truck and car show, a barbecue hosted by the Shawville Lions Club, a steak dinner, a 50/50 draw, a silent auction and live music. A moving tribute honoured Morin and Frost, while local businesses, sponsors, volunteers and residents contributed through donations, sponsorships and participation. The event was a testament to the solidarity and generosity of the Pontiac community.

–Vivika Lanois (Trans. P.J.)

PHOTO: Classic cars, transport trucks and other vehicles line the grounds during the Two Legends, One Cause fundraiser held June 27 in support of the families of Steve Morin and Charlie Frost.



The Pontiac High School Class of 2026 celebrated their graduation at Pine Lodge in Bristol on June 19.

(Cindy Lottes)

MRC — from p. 2

Thorne Mayor Terry Murdock questioned whether enough people use the trail to justify the expense and suggested paving should be considered if municipalities continue investing in the network.

Sabrina Ayres, Socio-economic Development Coordinator, said updated statistics are currently being compiled, while MRC Director General Kim Lesage said trail use has increased significantly since the COVID-19 pandemic.

Toller added that many cycling clubs prefer the existing stone dust surface, noting that paving the 94-kilometre trail would cost about \$5 million based on figures prepared several years ago. She said that pavement would eventually require repairs and is not necessarily the best environmental option for the rural corridor.

Development projects move forward

Council approved funding for several

projects aimed at supporting business development and tourism throughout the region.

The MRC awarded a \$35,046 contract to Le Pic-Bois Cooperative to conduct a feasibility study on restoring the Castor Géant (Giant Beaver) Trail. The approximately 14-kilometre hiking and cycling trail connects Leslie Park and Parc des Chutes Coulonge but was largely abandoned after funding for ongoing maintenance never materialized. The study will examine options to restore and enhance the trail while evaluating its long-term tourism and recreational potential. Leslie Park and Parc des Chutes Coulonge have both expressed interest in partnering with the MRC on the project.

An off-grid outfitting operation will receive up to \$50,000 through FRR2 to convert its existing energy system to solar power with battery storage.

Another \$15,000 was approved to help establish a laundromat in Mansfield to serve residents and travellers.

The Pontiac Forest Products Producers Board will receive up to \$75,000 through Quebec's Sustainable Forest Development Program (PADF) to support sustainable forest management and development of the private forest sector.

Other business

During miscellaneous business, Clarendon Mayor Ed Walsh requested an update on the abattoir. Toller said the project is essentially complete but continues to await final approval from the Ministry of Environment.

"It's just a bureaucratic issue," she said, noting the MRC has asked Hull MNA Suzanne Tremblay (CAQ) to help move the file forward.

Lesage said staff have continued preparing the facility by testing equipment, producing steaks and sausages, and hiring two butchers.

"You can't purchase yet, but it won't be too long," she said.

Elsewhere, council adopted its revised climate plan following public consultation

and expects to submit it to the province by the end of July, allowing the MRC to apply for implementation funding.

Mayors also approved an application to the Ministry of Immigration for funding to implement the MRC's immigration action plan over the next three years.

The Environment Committee is exploring options for a region-wide construction waste collection program and a future ecocentre or hazardous waste collection service. New recycling tags have also been developed to help educate residents when recyclable materials have not been sorted properly.

Council also approved an application to the federal New Horizons for Seniors Program to create two accessible outdoor rest areas at the MRC office and suspended Youth Council meetings until September after participation declined to four regular members.

Council will now break for summer, with the next public meeting scheduled for August 20.

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OFFRES D'EMPLOI



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AVIS PUBLIC

AUX CITOYENS DE LA MUNICIPALITÉ DE PONTIAC

Intéressés par le règlement 10-25

EST PAR LES PRÉSENTES DONNÉ par la soussignée directrice générale adjointe de la susdite Municipalité, que:

LE RÈGLEMENT 10-25 MODIFIANT LE RÈGLEMENT DE ZONAGE NO 11-24 EN VUE D'AJOUTER UNE DÉFINITION DE CAMIONNEUR ARTISAN a été adopté lors de la séance ordinaire du conseil municipal le 10 février 2026 et est entré en vigueur le 15 juin 2026, date de la publication.

Toute personne intéressée à le consulter peut le faire dans notre Internet à l'adresse suivante:

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Municipalité de | Municipality of

Pontiac

PUBLIC NOTICE

TO THE CITIZENS OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF PONTIAC

Interested in the bylaw 10-25

IS HEREBY GIVEN by the undersigned Assistant Director General of the aforesaid Municipality, that:

BYLAW 10-25 AMENDING ZONING BYLAW NO. 11-24 WITH THE AIM OF ADDING A DEFINITION OF INDEPENDENT TRUCK OPERATOR was adopted at the regular Municipal Council meeting of February 10, 2026, and came into force on June 15, 2026, the date of publication.

Anyone interested in consulting it can do so on our website at the following address:

<http://www.municipalitepontiac.com/en/municipal-laws/laws-administration-department/>



MANAGING EDITOR

The Pontiac Journal is looking for a Managing Editor. This position is part-time and can be done remotely from home most of the time. The position will start in July and training will be provided.

Responsibilities

- Writing three to five articles per issue and the occasional editorial.
- Managing a team of freelance journalists, assigning articles etc.
- Fact-checking and copy-editing articles, photo-caps, and headlines.
- Determining the news layout in the paper.
- Being active in the community, to stay up to date on news and events.
- Attend a biweekly staff meeting at the office

Qualifications

- Journalistic training or experience is a strong asset.
- You own a vehicle, laptop computer and camera (phone).
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- Open-minded and enjoy working with others that may have different views.
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Contact Information

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Qualifications

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Les soumissions sous pli cacheté doivent être déposées au plus tard le **3 août 2026** à 13 h 00 et seront ouvertes le jour même à 13 h 30.

Kevin Murphy
 Maire

PUBLIC NOTICE

TENDER FOR DOMESTIC DOOR TO DOOR GARBAGE PICKUP

The contractor will be responsible for picking up the door to door garbage in our municipality and follow all the rules and regulations according to ministry of transportation regulations.

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Sealed Tender bids must be submitted by 1:00pm **August 3/2026** and will be opened the same day at 1:30pm.

Kevin Murphy
 Mayor

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- Connaissance du milieu municipal considérée comme un atout;
- Bilinguisme (français et anglais) considéré comme un atout.

Les conditions de travail et la rémunération seront discutées selon les qualifications et l'expérience du candidat retenu.

Les personnes intéressées sont invitées à soumettre leur candidature à la Municipalité de Portage-du-Fort au plus tard le 4 août à 14 h.

Municipalité de Portage-du-Fort
 24 rue de L'Église, Portage-du-Fort, QC J0X 2T0
 Email: kevinmurphy1616@gmail.com
 Telephone: 819-689-2057

Seuls les candidats retenus seront contactés.



**JOB OFFER
 DIRECTOR GENERAL / CLERK-TREASURER**

POSITION OVERVIEW

The Municipality of Municipality of Portage-du-Fort is seeking qualified candidates for the position of Director General / Clerk-Treasurer.

Reporting to Municipal Council, the successful candidate will be responsible for overseeing the general administration and day-to-day operations of the Municipality in accordance with the Municipal Code of Québec and Council priorities.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Supporting and advising Municipal Council;
- Coordinating municipal administration and operations;
- Preparing Council agendas and supporting documentation;
- Financial administration and budget oversight;
- Ensuring implementation of Council decisions and compliance with applicable legislation;
- Coordinating municipal projects, contracts, and communications.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

- Experience in municipal administration, public administration, or management;
- Strong organizational and communication skills;
- Knowledge of the municipal environment considered an asset;
- Bilingualism (French and English) considered an asset.

Working conditions and compensation will be discussed based on qualifications and experience.

Interested candidates are invited to submit their application to the Municipality of Portage-du-Fort no later than August 4 at 2:00pm .

Municipality of Portage-du-Fort
 24 rue de L'Église, Portage-du-Fort, QC J0X 2T0
 Email: kevinmurphy1616@gmail.com
 Telephone: 819-689-2057

Only selected candidates will be contacted.





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