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# Your Local Journal

Forging a path for Hudson's future...  
 See story on page 3

VOL. 13 NO. 34 | September 24, 2015 Via Canada Post Hudson, St. Lazare, Vaudreuil-Dorion, Pincourt, and the West Island



## Little strokes fell great oaks

PHOTO BY JAMES ARMSTRONG

Local traffic circulation and electrical services were interrupted for hours Thursday morning, September 17, in Hudson while a Hydro Québec crew brought down an ancient oak tree. See story on page 2.

*"Today's mighty oak is just yesterday's nut that held its ground." - David Icke*

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PHOTO BY JAMES ARMSTRONG

At 177.8 cm (70 inches) across at its widest point, the stump of an oak tree in Saint James' cemetery remains as an epitaph to a life well lived.

## Requiem for a mighty Hudson oak tree

**James Armstrong**  
*Your Local Journal*

The life of a centurial oak at the edge of the Saint James' Anglican Church cemetery came to an abrupt end the morning of Thursday, September 17 and, befitting its stature, in attendance was a Hydro Québec crew, Town of Hudson employees, members of the

parish, Hudson residents and passers-by. Because of its close proximity to the Hydro wires that pass along Main Road, Québec Hydro took on the task of removing the tree piece by piece with the aid of a crane and skilled sawyers wielding chainsaws.

*Continued on page 3*



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# Hudson's Strategic Plan officially unveiled

**James Armstrong**  
*Your Local Journal*

Hudson's long-awaited strategic plan was presented to a well-attended assembly of citizens at the Stephen F. Shaar Community Center Saturday, September 19. The overview of the plan handed out at the presentation, *Our Town, Our Future*, outlines the nine guiding principles of the forward-looking strategy ranging from maintaining the charming character, celebrating heritage, arts and culture, focus on balanced population growth, develop an accessible and connected waterfront, encourage micro-organic farming, AND developing and maintaining healthy businesses in the core of the town.

"It's a great framework and a great job," said resident Keith Heller after the presentation. "It's easy to be critical but now we have something to discuss." Heller also said Mayor Ed Prévost's promise to continue the process of consulting residents is a positive point.

"I think it's good to dream big and this is certainly dreaming big," said

former Interim Mayor Diane Piacente, noting there are many issues that need to be explored in detail contained in the nine guiding principles.

Financial responsibility coupled with a realistic conservative financial plan is at the heart of the strategy. "We need this to be able to go forward," said recently hired Director General Jean-Pierre Roy after the meeting, pointing out the entire administrative team was in attendance. In terms of finances, the plan states there is no intention to increase residential property taxes so that property taxes will only change in direct relation to the change in the value of a home. The impact on Hudson households is estimated at an average rate of increase of 1.2 per cent per year from 2014 to 2020.

Going forward, the business tax rate will remain where it is except where there are changes in the rental value or square footage occupied by a business.

The real-estate assets of the town will be evaluated at market value when being assessed for potential contribution to strategic projects. The plan also proposes to improve the revenue/cost annual change ratio from an average



PHOTO BY JAMES ARMSTRONG

Hudson Mayor Ed Prévost and council members fielded questions on a variety of topics after unveiling the new strategic plan Saturday, September 19.

of -3.0 over the last five years where expenses grew three times faster than income to +1.5 by 2020.

Proposed spending that will peak at \$900,000 per year in 2017 will be offset by growth, subsidies and strategic project revenues. The goal is to generate 30 to 40 per cent more business estimated at \$8 million per year in additional revenues to local businesses.

Arts and culture play a major role in the strategic plan. It proposes to build an arts and culture center, possibly on the waterfront, in conjunction with an arts-study program. Resident Lynda Clouette-Mackay, director general of the Hudson Music Festival, took May-

or Prévost to task for not consulting directly with professional artists and local artist organizations and for not approving the proposed re-purposing of the former fire station as a local center for arts activities. The mayor did not respond directly but commented after the presentation that the subject of the former fire station had been decided based upon the prohibitive cost of bringing it up to standard for that type of use.

"A detailed version of the plan will be available on the town web site," said Prévost at the end of the presentation, before thanking everyone for their interest and participation.

## Oak tree

*Continued from page 2*

With a height estimated between 60 to 70 feet and an age of possibly 100 years plus, this oak has provided home and sustenance for countless generations of squirrels, chipmunks and birds, given shelter and shade to the mourned and mourning, stood silently as children and adults climbed and descended Macaulay's Hill and witnessed the departure and return of those who served in two world wars and other conflicts. As a producer of uncounted bushels of acorns, it is likely the prolific progenitor of a long line of descendants.

"We knew that it was going to have to come down," said Hudson resident

and member of the parish, Marcus Owen. He explained the parish was aware the condition of the tree was deteriorating and it was only a matter of time. The process began early Thursday morning with the closure of Main Road between Côte Saint Charles Road and Alstonvale Street to all but local traffic permitting the crane to set up in the middle of the road in front of the church. Once the electrical power was shut off, the cutting began. With a great deal of dexterity, the crane operator manipulated each section of the tree up and over the power lines and laid it out on the road. Once denuded of its branches, the remaining log was hoisted into a dump truck provided by the town and deposited in the parking lot opposite the church. As of Thursday last, there was one less tree to count in Hudson.



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# The real deal

With the most important event on the current political landscape approaching with all the speed and momentum of an oncoming train, the candidates, voters, and myriad associated players are doing their utmost to ensure their respective party's victory.

While most voters likely have an inkling of which party will receive their coveted X on the ballot come October 19, the contenders' strategizing increases in direct proportion to the proximity of voting day. And with an upcoming English-language candidates' debate set for October 1, a great deal of votes might well be decided that very night.

While it's understandable the candidates might want to have an idea of the nature of the questions being posed before the main event, rest assured this newspaper will not be sharing that information before the fact.

What is not understandable, however, is that other English-language debate organizers have approached us saying they'll be furnishing their own federal candidates with questions before their own match takes place.

A debate should paint an accurate picture of leadership by virtue of the corresponding candidates' ability to think on his or her own feet rather than how well one has been able to memorize, rehearse, and perform on command.

Come join us Thursday, October 1, 7 p.m. at Westwood Senior High School in Hudson, meet the real, unrehearsed, raw deal in person, watch the arguments, interaction, and delivery, and know that you're casting your vote based on your candidates' true measure.

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# Puzzled?



PHOTO BY

Welcome to *Your Local Journal's* feature challenging your eye - and memory - to identify a mystery locale from somewhere in the Vaudreuil-Soulanges region. Each week will feature a photo that pertains to a story in the newspaper. We challenge you to identify where the photo was taken. Winners get bragging rights and their names printed in the paper. Send your answers to editor@yourlocaljournal.ca.

Congratulations to Rigaud resident **Aline Beauchamp** who was the first reader who correctly emailed to identify last week's *Puzzled?* photo taken at the Édifice Paul-Brasseur in Rigaud.

## Dear Editor: editor@yourlocaljournal.ca

**Dear Editor,**

Statistically, a majority of people will live and work in close proximity to the place of their birth. That means most Francophones and Anglophones born in Quebec will stay in Quebec.

If oral and written proficiency in the French language is important to you, as English parents, for your children to have, consider giving the French school system a try.

Contrary to hard-line, old-school Anglos who perpetuate an 'us and them' mentality of Francophones viciously waving the fleur de lys, the teachers and administrators in French schools are as competent, skilled, enthusiastic, and compassionate as their colleagues in the English public education system.

The difference is the students learn French in a genuine immersion setting - French in the classrooms, hallways, lunchrooms, and playing fields.

If your own French linguistic skill is a concern, the majority of staff, administration, and even students, are bilingual, and can help in English if needed.

If French proficiency is not important, then by all means, stay with the English public school system. Your kids will get a good education - in English.

But if you want your kids to interact and prosper in Quebec rather than live in an ever-shrinking xenophobic bubble, then give them the tools to achieve this.

Consider the French school system.

It's not about politics, job security, or tribalism.

It's all about *our* kids.

**Martin Roloff**  
**Notre Dame de l'île Perrot**

**Dear Editor,**

The Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) has been making a lot of noise lately concerning the schoolboard reform plan of Education Minister François Blais. The ministry intends to keep school boards (councils?), but

scrap school board elections, and put more democracy into our schools.

At the Pearson board Executive Committee meeting on Sept. 21, I managed to ask three questions about the QESBA, which I had submitted, in writing, to all commissioners before the meeting.

1. Would the Board, via its QESBA representatives, provide this taxpayer an updated summary of the QESBA Budget;
2. a list of all costs (travel, hotel, food) associated to bring in commissioners from across Canada to denounce the government's plans to democratize and modernize Quebec's school system, at a press conference, on Sept. 9, in Quebec City;
3. all costs (stipends, travel expenses, hotels and food) surrounding the much heralded, but never officially requested 'Elections Panel' consultation and its 'Study Panel Report 2015.'

That said, on the matter of consultation, as a grandfather of children who attend the English Montreal School Board (EMSB) and the Lester B. Pearson School Board (LBPSB), here is some knowledge gained from my children, on this controversy concerning the ditching of school board elections.

The EMSB community through its "2015 Parent Opinion Survey" garnered hundreds of views of parents, on many issues, "from all corners of the school board," according to the Facebook page of its Central Parents' Committee (CPC). They even met during the summer; they embrace the government's plan.

However, at the Pearson board, the community at large, was never consulted, and I heard nothing of significance at the May, June, and September CPC meetings, which I attended.

Yet, it is reported, to the surprise of some, the Pearson community outright rejects the government's idea to democratize the public school system.

*Continued on page 8*

# Pilon says initiatives have brought cultural harmony to Vaudreuil-Dorion

John Jantak

Your Local Journal

The City of Vaudreuil-Dorion was questioned about its cultural initiatives after a resident complained about a 10,000 Euro contribution to the Global Network of Cities and Local and Regional Governments (UCLG) during the Monday evening council meeting, September 21.

Mario Tanguay, who unsuccessfully ran against Mayor Guy Pilon in the November 2013 municipal election, has been a vocal critic against the city's cultural initiatives. The financial contribution, which amounts to about \$15,000 Canadian, was announced during the September 8 council meeting.

Tanguay told council that considering there is an unemployment rate of almost nine per cent in the Montreal region, the city's contribution could be put to better use to help people who are having financial difficulty. Pilon dismissed Tanguay's recommendation, repeatedly saying it was his opinion.

"It's always the same thing with Mr. Tanguay," Pilon told *Your Local Journal*. "He wants nothing to do with the

town's cultural development. That's his viewpoint. He ran against me in the last (municipal) election and he got about 1,000 votes. That shows that his view is certainly not the view of the community.

"We have people who tell us about how pleased they are with our cultural activities and initiatives and like I told him, it's his view of the town," Pilon added. "He feels we shouldn't be involved in any cultural activities. The fact is we are working on and promoting our initiatives and there are a lot of people from around the world who are looking at us for what we're doing."

The city was invited last March to present the scope of its cultural program to a gathering of international UCLG delegates in Bilbao, Spain, as part of UNESCO's Agenda 21 for Culture to improve the sustainability of cities and quality of life for people worldwide.

For Pilon, the invitation was a source of pride because it highlighted the significant efforts the city has made within the past five years to bring harmony within its diverse population, which represents some 90 different cultural and national backgrounds.

He added that the city's cultural ini-

tiatives are meant to bring people together through inclusiveness despite differences and it's better to do so as people move into Vaudreuil-Dorion rather than waiting to do something after an area becomes ghettoized, a problem that many cities worldwide are struggling to deal with.

"It's not just about our Je Suis symbol," said Pilon. "Everything in the community is going well. We spoke to all our residents and they understand about what it is to live here. The good thing is there's a lot of participation from all our residents at all our different cultural events and activities.

Pilon also proudly remarked that as one of the eight cities that presented their cultural programs at Bilbao, Vaudreuil-Dorion was the only North American city to have been chosen, which shows the powerful impact its cultural agenda has among international observers.



PHOTO BY JOHN JANTAK

Mayor Guy Pilon said that the city's cultural initiatives within the past five years have brought harmony within its diverse population, which represents some 90 different cultural and national backgrounds.

Vaudreuil-Dorion is now regarded as a lead city for its cultural initiatives and has been invited to showcase the strategies it has employed to bring cultural harmony to its community, Pilon added.

"We've gone from a model city to a lead city since we came back from Bilbao," said Pilon. "We're now entering another phase - to show people what we've done and how we did it. The main thing is to showcase at least one aspect each year of how our initiatives help our community, like starting a program for handicapped people. We want to integrate cultural thinking into our day-to-day process."

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## CARMEN MARIE FABIO

# Tea'd off

As someone who has not had a cup of coffee in over 10 years, a recent CBC news report caught my ear and I wholeheartedly sympathize with the plight of the members of the Ekuanitshit First Nation who can no longer find their preferred brand of tea.

Parent company Unilever has decided to discontinue its 'Prior Park' Salada black tea blend citing poor sales and now the tea-drinkers of this 700-resident community on the Lower North Shore, who have loyally bought this product for decades, are scrambling to find a palatable alternative.

The mocking comments made by pseudonymed trolls on the website can only be scrawled by those whose very lack of civility guarantees they're not tea drinkers.

What it lacks in caffeine - compared to that other morning elixir composed of hot water, ground roasted beans, and hope - tea makes up for by imparting a genuine feeling of comfort thereby making any bad morning just a little bit better. That goes for everyone in the house who all know that if the last drop of milk is saved for Mom's tea in the morning, no one gets hurt.

I didn't initially panic when, not long ago, I ran out of teabags at the office knowing there were some stashed in the cupboard in the kitchen. What I didn't know, however, was that the collection of odd boxes and cans included all the strange hipster flavours like Earl Grey, green tea, chai, an abomination of loose leaves titled "noix grillées" and something called Rooibos. With mounting panic, I searched for a good old, basic, straight-up, missionary style, orange-pekoee teabag to get me through the afternoon rush, a situation remedied following a frantic text to our administrator who was able to talk me down after directing me, via cell phone, to a baggie in her desk drawer containing the good stuff.

I once had a coworker who was a sports fanatic, gladly handing over the bulk of his newspaper to me every day, holding onto only the sports section. And his explanation on the usefulness of organized sport in the world, "If we didn't have sports, there'd be a lot more wars," is probably the best one I've ever heard. In a similar vein, I feel that if everyone would just take a little break and put the kettle on, the ensuing ripple effect of the benefits would have to mitigate some negativity somewhere.

I have fond memories of visiting a family friend in the Eastern Townships, one of my mother's friends whose son owns a micro-brewery and who was also adept at wine making herself. "Stop in for tea time," she'd remind us whenever we were in town to visit my mom. The kettle invariably never got plugged in as we'd sample her latest batches of hootch and to this day, whenever my coworkers yell out, "It's tea time!" I involuntarily reach for the bottle Tylenol.

And while we all partake in the daily afternoon office tea ritual, I eschew the communal pink teapot in favour of the more intense brew with my own teabag that hangs out at the bottom of the cup to the very end.

Much like a good man, a decent cup of tea needs to be hot, sweet, and strong.



PHOTO BY JAMES PARRY

Melissa Dubé, Outreach Coordinator Fair Trade Canada, second from left, presents prestigious award to Hudson Fair Trade Town Committee members Jean Paul Vialard, Robert McKinnon, India Robbins, and Deborah Woodhead.

# Hudson ranks top town in Canada for Fair Trade

*Reflecting the socially conscious nature of its citizens says Robert McKinnon*

**James Parry**

*Your Local Journal*

Hudson, which became the 21st Fair Trade Town in Canada in May of this year and with a population of only 5,000, was named Town of the Year at the Canadian Fair Trade Awards Ceremony in Toronto last week when over 125 passionate Fair Traders gathered for the annual event to honour stellar commitment to their initiatives nationwide.

Robert McKinnon, Hudson Fair Trade Town Steering Committee Chair, was on hand in Toronto to accept the award for the town and proudly stated it was an absolute honour to stand alongside other communities sharing in its vision.

Said McKinnon, "This trophy belongs to our community and the dedicated, spirited Fair Trade Town Committee of India Robbins, Jean Paul

Vialard, Deborah Woodhead, Gwen Desjardins, Laura McCaffrey, and Mark Smith who worked so tirelessly and passionately over the past year."

Added McKinnon, "Without the support of our Town Council, local businesses, and community service groups, we could not have accomplished any of this as a Fair Trade Town is a very inclusive concept, embracing a shop local-help-global philosophy that engages all of us collectively from students, to teachers, volunteers, and local citizens that collaborate together to help make the world a better place."

Said McKinnon, "Our town should be very proud of this Canada-wide designation that illustrates the socially conscious nature of our citizens. When so much news tends to be negative a shining positive light has been cast on our own and its community members this past week."

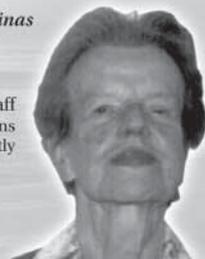
## BOUDREAU, Hélène (née Gray) 1928 - 2015

On Sunday, September 20, 2015, at the age of eighty-seven, Mrs. Hélène Gray from Hudson passed away. She leaves to mourn her husband Gérard Boudreau, her daughter Francine (Noël), her two grandchildren Martin (Ellen) and Michèle, her two sisters-in-law Jeannette and Carmen, as well as all of her nephews and nieces. She went to be with her son Robert.

*The funeral service will be held at Saint-Thomas Aquinas Church in Hudson, Friday Sept. 25 at 10 am. The interment will take place at the local cemetery.*

A special thank you to Dr. Welik and to all of the staff members at NOVA Hudson and the CLSC. Donations to NOVA Hudson ([www.novahudson.com](http://www.novahudson.com)) would be greatly appreciated.

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# Meet the candidates of *Your Local Journal's* upcoming English-language Federal election debate

Join us October 1 at Westwood Senior High School in Hudson

**John Jantak**

*Your Local Journal*



**Conservative party - Marc Boudreau**

For Marc Boudreau, running as the Conservative candidate in Vaudreuil-Soulanges, campaigning for the upcoming federal election is a fine balancing act between being active on the campaign hustings, and meeting his work obligations as a lawyer and fulfilling his family obligations. Despite the heavy load, Boudreau says he's confident he'll be able to win his riding.

The Conservative's economic platform is just one reason why Boudreau decided to run for the party. "The philosophy of our party is for people to pay the least of amount of taxes as possible," Boudreau told *Your Local Journal*. "I like the way the Conservatives are defending our economy and creating jobs.

"The Conservatives are very serious about the economy," Boudreau added. "Over the last five years since the last serious recession in 2008, they've created 1.3 million jobs; 90 per cent of which were full-time jobs with 80 per cent of these jobs created in the private sector. They've done a great job so far and have pledged to create another 1.3 million jobs over the next five years."

Boudreau credits Stephen Harper's leadership for quickly pulling Canada out of recession and having the best

economic performance of all the G7 nations at the time. "We got out of that crisis the fastest and the strongest. The federal tax burden is also the lowest it's been in the last 50 years by doing things like reducing the GST from seven to five per cent," he said.

Providing tax breaks for Canadian families through the Child Tax Credit is another aspect of the Conservative platform that is aimed at helping cash-strapped Canadians and stimulating the economy.



**Liberal Party - Peter Schiefke**

Liberal candidate Peter Schiefke said he was prompted to run for the party because of its strong commitment to address the major issues that affect all Canadians and people living in Vaudreuil-Soulanges.

"I firmly believe we have the strongest plans, whether you're talking about the economy, environment, or social programs," Schiefke told *Your Local Journal*. "We've put forward detailed plans and explained to Canadians why we're putting them forth, why it's necessary and how we're going to pay for it. We're the only party to have put forth the detail that we have."

Schiefke said the Liberal's plans and accountability have been well received by people when he canvasses door-to-door. "This isn't just me making a verbal promise about what we want to do or that Justin Trudeau is making," said

Schiefke. "We're giving this in writing. We want people to be able to hold onto this to be able to hold us accountable for the promises we're making right now."

The Liberal's economic plan presented by leader Justin Trudeau which includes stimulating the economy through infrastructure projects is in stark contrast to the NDP and Conservatives, said Schiefke. "Now is the time to invest in growing our economy. It's the second time in 10 years that we find ourselves in a recession."

If elected, the Liberals are proposing the largest infrastructure upgrade program in Canada's history, investing \$60 billion over the next 10 years - one-third into public transit, one third into social infrastructure providing social housing for low income families and seniors, and one-third into bridges and roads," said Schiefke.



**New Democratic Party - Jamie Nicholls**

Jamie Nicholls, the NDP incumbent for Vaudreuil-Soulanges, is looking forward to possibly winning a second

consecutive term in his riding and is hopeful that leader Thomas Mulcair will become Canada's first NDP Prime Minister.

"I stand by my work for the past four years in the region," Nicholls told *Your Local Journal*. "At election time, you have to outline your vision and give a positive picture for the region and the country and I think people are responding to that. They like the change that we're proposing and I feel a lot of optimism about the future and possibly the history-making event of forming the first New Democratic government in Canada."

With Thanksgiving Day approaching, Nicholls used the holiday to showcase what the NDP envisions for all Canadians. "The idea of Thanksgiving is that people who came here cared for each other. When French and English settlers came here, the First Nations took them in and we shared our culture together. The three founding nations had this idea of care and compassion for each other.

"Our vision goes back to those roots of caring and compassion," said Nicholls. "We shouldn't have to worry about paying for our children's health care. And seniors, who have given all their life to their country, should be treated with respect and dignity and should never have to live under the poverty line. We should take care of each other as a society."

Nicholls added that on a provincial level, the NDP has proven itself as responsible public administrators.

## NOTICE OF CLOSURE

Effective November 1, 2015 I will be closing my practice. Over the past twenty years, it has been my pleasure to provide counselling services within the Communities of Hudson and Saint-Lazare. If you are a former client and need to reach me, please contact me at [vdh.susan@yahoo.com](mailto:vdh.susan@yahoo.com).  
With well wishes,  
**Susan Von Der Haar, MSW**  
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# Letters

Continued from page 4

In fact, in a Montreal Gazette letter, on Sept. 18, LBPSB Commissioner, vice-chairman of the Executive Committee, Craig Berger, wrote "the Jennings (Panel) Report represents the view of the community at large (and) should not be questioned." Imagine.

Moreover, the QESBA said abolishing school board elections, "would destroy school democracy." Wrong, wrong, wrong.

The association is a master at using fear-mongering tactics. There will be more democracy.

The minority-language education rights will be respected. How can it not

be?

There still will be elected Governing Boards, Parent Participation Organizations, Central Parents' Committees and so on - all English.

It's been my experience that citizens' and taxpayers' democratic rights are more respected by the Quebec government than those who claim to be the protector, and friend, of the English-speaking education community.

The idea of scrapping school board elections, as a first step, toward major school-board reform by the Couillard government, is indeed exciting news.

Education Minister Blais has repeatedly stated, "Our intention is not to abolish school boards; it's to change democracy and give more power for parents."

There will be no better democracy

practiced, once the shackles to Quebec's school boards are broken, and principals, teachers and parents will have the freedom to decide what's best for the children in the school.

**Chris Eustace  
Pierrefonds**

Dear Editor,

The television show 'La Petite Séduction' with its 1 million French Canadian viewers has extended the hand of friendship to our small predominately Anglophone community. Such a gracious gesture cannot go unanswered.

There will be a general information meeting hosted by the CBC Thursday, September 24, at 7 p.m. at the St. Thomas church hall, 413 Main Road, to which all are welcome. On Saturday, September 26, at 7:30 a.m. we will need a crowd with colorful umbrellas (if you don't have one, one will be supplied) in front of the Hudson Village Theatre, 28 Wharf Road (there will be no parking at the train station) and on Sunday morning, September 27, at 7:30 a.m. we need a crowd of picnickers with baskets, blankets and food at Jack Layton Park (400 Halcro).

On Sunday from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. we also need a selection of interesting animals (dogs, cats, goldfish, snakes, lizards, pigs etc.) for a talent show. Your goldfish could show how great he swims. At 4:15 p.m. on Sunday, a crowd is needed in the back yard of the Auberge Willow Inn (208 Main Road) for the final shoot. This is an important event and a wonderful opportunity to show the rest of Quebec what an interesting, beautiful and friendly town Hudson is.

Residents from Hudson and throughout the Vaudreuil-Soulanges region are

encouraged to take part in this historic event even if it means getting up a little earlier on a Saturday or Sunday morning.

It will be great fun and everyone will get to relive the fun and share in their 15 minutes of fame when they watch themselves and their neighbors on television at a later date.

**Frank Hicks  
Hudson**

Dear Editor,

The Town of Hudson is taking extreme measures to solve its financial problems when it taxes many residents for a service they do not receive.

It is reasonable that we all pay taxes to offset the costs' construction, operation, and maintenance of facilities available to all residents, such as roads, aqueducts, parks, public buildings, schools, and so forth.

However, only a few residents are served by the new municipal sewer system, yet all of us are being taxed to subsidize this cost. Those of us not served by the municipal sewer system have no choice but to pay for all of the costs of construction and maintenance of private septic sewage disposal systems. Would it not be fair then, that the municipality should subsidize the cost of sewage disposal not only for those on the municipal system, but also for those not served by the municipal system?

It is hoped that by writing this letter to *Your Local Journal* that the Town of Hudson will finally respond to my letters of December 4, 2014, February 13, 2015, and March 20, 2015.

**H. D. Reilly  
Hudson**



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# Police Reports



Compiled by  
**Carmen Marie Fabio**

*Carmen.Fabio@YourLocalJournal.ca*

## West Island police files

### Station 3 covering Île Bizard, Pierrefonds-Roxboro and Ste. Geneviève

A 21-year-old man coming home from a party who stopped outside his apartment block to smoke a cigarette suffered significant facial injuries at the hands of an unknown assailant. Const. Daniel Maheu reports the young man arrived at his apartment on Nanterre Street near Pierrefonds Boulevard around 5:30 a.m. September 19 by bus after celebrating a friend's birthday. While he sat outside, the suspect came from between the buildings, approached the man asking if he was selling any drugs. When he responded he wasn't, the suspect said he didn't believe him and put his hand into the man's left pants pocket. As the victim was trying to remove the man's hand, the suspect began to repeatedly punch him in the face. The victim said the altercation lasted about five minutes during which time he was able to land one punch on the suspect's nose. As the two fell to the ground and the

victim began yelling, an employee of a nearby bar came to intervene. The suspect fled the scene with money taken from the victim's pocket. The victim then woke his older brother and together they drove around the neighbourhood to try and locate the suspect before contacting police. The suspect is described as a Latino male in his early 20s, 6-foot tall, 145 lbs. with a slim build and long brown hair.

### Station 4 covering Dollard des Ormeaux

Two men were spotted at 2:47 a.m. September 18 attempting to open car doors of vehicles parked on Baffin Street. Const. Leslie Potts reports the first was seen searching cars with a small flashlight while the second accompanied him on bicycle. They reportedly searched a Chevrolet Equinox and an Audi. The first suspect is described as paunchy male, 18 to 25 years of age, wearing a cap with a white brim and a black sleeveless T-shirt. The second is about the same age and was wearing black pants and a white shirt. Police are reminding residents to keep car doors locked, keep some exterior house lights on overnight, and to not leave objects of value in parked vehicles.



PHOTO BY CARMEN MARIE FABIO

Crown Prosecutor Catherine Sheitoyan said an additional charge of possession of cannabis will be added to the 10 charges already faced by Hudson resident Jordan Taylor stemming from a June 17 accident that severely injured jogger Tina Lyon-Adam.

## Hudson drunk-driver case postponed to December

**Carmen Marie Fabio**

*editor@yourlocaljournal.ca*

The court appearance for Hudson resident Jordan Taylor, accused in the June 17 hit and run incident on Cambridge Street that left 21-year-old jogger Tina Lyon-Adam still recovering from multiple injuries, has been remanded to December 14.

"There is some additional evidence that has been disclosed today," said Crown Prosecutor Catherine Sheitoyan at the Valleyfield Courthouse September 23. "The investigation is still going on so other witnesses have been met." Sheitoyan said the additional evidence presented includes possession of an undisclosed amount of cannabis that was found on Taylor the night of the accident. Lyon had been out running with her friend Alique Langlois when they were struck by a car driven by 23-year-old Taylor. He was charged

with 10 counts at the courthouse on June 15 - five for each victim - including impaired driving causing bodily harm, having a blood alcohol level exceeding the legal limit, dangerous driving causing bodily harm, and criminal negligence.

"December 14 is a pro forma appearance to fix a date for the preliminary inquiry," said Sheitoyan.

Defense lawyer Philip Schneider declined to comment, saying he needs further time to examine the evidence.

"It's very said," said Mayor Ed Prévost. "We've certainly done as much as we could to make the residents of Cambridge feel secure." Prévost said speedbumps and pylons that serve to narrow the road to curtail speeding had been installed in the Hudson's Valleys neighbourhood following the accident.

Taylor was not present at the courthouse September 23.

## Information wanted

Investigators of the Vaudreuil-Soulanges East detachment of the Sûreté du Québec are asking for the public's help in identifying four suspects who stole a vehicle that was parked at a hotel near Highway 40 in Vaudreuil-Dorion.

Around 4:30 a.m. August 16, the four entered the hotel lobby and spoke with an employee before leaving. One suspect left in the same vehicle the four arrived in; the other three left in a 2013, black, 4-door Mercedes CLS 5. Just before 7 a.m. the burnt remains of the car were found on chemin des Pins in Ste. Anne de Bellevue.

The first suspect is a white male, between 5-feet, 9-inches and 6-feet tall, weighing about 200 lbs. wearing a black T-shirt with a character with the head of a mushroom (see photo), Bermuda shorts



PHOTO COURTESY SÛRETÉ DU QUÉBEC

and a cap. The second is also a white male, between 5-feet, 7-inches and 5-feet, 9-inches, with very short hair, wearing a red hoodie and pale pants. One female suspect is blond and was wearing black leggings and a striped shirt; the other had long black hair and was dressed all in black.

Anyone with information on this event is asked to contact the Sûreté du Québec at 1 800 659-4264.

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given by the undersigned to all citizens of the municipalities of the MRC de Vaudreuil-Soulanges, that Regulation Number 183-2 entitled "Règlement numéro 183-2 modifiant le règlement 183 modifié par le règlement 183-1 régissant les matières relatives à l'écoulement des eaux des cours d'eau de la MRC de Vaudreuil-Soulanges" was adopted at the regular council meeting of the MRC de Vaudreuil-Soulanges held on September 2nd, 2015.

You may consult it at the offices of the MRC de Vaudreuil-Soulanges located at 420 St. Charles Avenue in Vaudreuil-Dorion, as well as at the offices of local municipalities.

GIVEN AT VAUDREUIL-DORION, this 17th day of September in the year two-thousand and fifteen (2015).

MYLÈNE BLAIS  
Assistant Executive Director and  
Assistant Secretary/Treasurer



# JAMES PARRY

In a departure from the norm for this page, I'd like to share some sad news with you this week. But one that, at the same time, reflects the true community spirit that makes our little town by the lake so special.

As everyone knows, a Scout's motto is 'Be Prepared'. And that of a Cub is 'We'll do our best'. But how can one possibly be prepared for the dreadful news that one of your fellow scouts - and a beloved leader and mentor, at that - has just been diagnosed with ALS? To give it its proper name, *amyotrophic lateral sclerosis*, a progressive disease affecting the nerve cells of the brain and spinal cord for which there is no known cure.

Well, if you are a member of the Hudson-based **Cavagnal Scouts Group** - which recently helped the town battle its ragweed problem - you rally together, pledge to support him all you can, and set out to raise funds to help him and his family during what will certainly be difficult times ahead.

Beginning with an **Ice Bucket Challenge** to all other scout troops in the region. Which is exactly what happened last week at the group's annual open house and registration at **St. James' Church Hall** in what is just the first of a series of special fund-raising events planned over the coming weeks and months in support of **Stéphane Hogue**, his wife **Karen**, and their teenage son **Kyle**.

**ONLY THE BEGINNING** - Says **Michael Doran**, Cavagnal Scouting Group Commissioner and fellow Hudsonite, "This family has played such an important role in supporting our scouting activities over the years and it is now our turn to support them in

every way we can." Explains **Lisa Pritchard**, "When we were recently informed by our fellow scouting leader, Stéphane, that he had been diagnosed with ALS, we knew as a group we would like to do something to support him. We tossed around a few ideas and decided to start with the Ice Bucket Challenge. Our first opportunity to have as many leaders together as possible was registration night."

Spelling out his name with a letter per bucket, SCOUTER STEPHANE, leaders and some youngsters took part in the wave with Lisa telling them they were there to honour Stéphane who has been a big part of their scouting community, while asking them to think about all the other people in our community that have been struck by ALS. So far the group has raised \$675 and is aiming for much more. Will keep you posted as to how you too might contribute to this most worthwhile cause.

**A SALUTE TO JAKE'S GIFT** - And now, on another emotional note, **Hudson Village Theatre's** last play of the summer season - *Jake's Gift* - has left town for further shows in **Ontario, Vancouver**, and then **Ottawa**. Why emotional? Because, in recent days, so many people I've met and spoken to who also saw it, told me they will long remember this tour-de-force by playwright and performer, **Julia Mackey**, directed by her hubby, **Dirk Van Stralen**, and marking its 800th performance right here at our little theatre down by the railway tracks.

And I couldn't agree more. Perfection in every sense of the word. And well-merited sustained standing ovations after every show. Including Saturday night's when, after enjoying a great steak BBQ at the home of **Frank Royle** together with 30 ticket holders eager to see *Jake's Gift*, Julia and Dirk headed out in bucketing-down rain to make it all happen again.

And then who, after the show and to the total surprise of **Hudson Legion Branch #115** stalwart and former **World War II** nurse, **Maxine Bredt** - turning 96 years young that very day and who was invited up on stage to accept it - presented a print of a beautiful painting that will now be framed and shown with pride at the Legion on **Beach Street** for generations to come.

It is titled *Fallen Hero* and it was commissioned by **Mark Norman**, founder and director of the **Canadian Fallen Heroes Foundation (CFHF)**, who invited **Steve Robertson**, an artist from **Sooke, B.C.**, to paint it. It combines three elements. A **D-Day** veteran who was at the 60th Anniversary of the **D-Day** ceremony in **Ottawa**. A young



PHOTO BY JAMES PARRY  
**Birthdays gal, Maxine Bredt, and fellow Veterans Peter Stephenson and Vance Larson, stepped on stage at Hudson Village Theatre to be presented by Julia Mackey with a print of a very special painting to be displayed at the Hudson Legion Branch #115 for many years to come.**

girl who was at the funeral of her father, an **RCMP** officer killed in the line of duty. And a Canadian cemetery in **Holland**.

Explained Julia, "Mark asked us to donate the print to the Legion of the community we perform in. We've been doing that for him since 2011 and we are so happy to do so. The CFCH creates memorial plaques for every Canadian soldier killed in the line of duty from the **Boer War** to **Afghanistan**. There are 118,000 plaques to create and Mark has completed 2,300. The *Fallen Hero* print, which sells for \$100, is one of the ways they raise money to do the plaques."

Added Dirk, "Along with the donation of the print for the CFHE, we've been selling the **Jake's Gift Button** packages since 2010. We always give 100 per cent of the profit of the sales to the Legion for their **Poppy Trust Fund** or they can use the money for the most pressing issue at the Branch. We do this to give back to the communities and to support the Legions and to date we have raised over \$31,000 for the cause across Canada."

Way to go guys! And I know a lot of people who caught your superb show here in Hudson are already planning on seeing you again in Ottawa. My beautiful **Sunshine** and I included! Their web site, by the way, is [www.jakesgift.com](http://www.jakesgift.com). Check it out. It's a winner!

Check it out. It's a winner!

**A REAL ODYSSEY** - And speaking of winners, the talented hair styling team at **Odyssey Medispa & Salon** on **Harwood** sure helped all 23 contestants in the recent **Swimsuit USA International Model Search Canada Contest** staged in **St. Lazare** look their best for this prestigious event judged by nine local personalities, including salon owner, **Walter Veas**.

As the official hairstylists, the salon's entire staff was there comprising **Carmen Velarde, Lindsay Gilbert, Mayela Garza Padilla**, as well as **Zeina Abdulkarim** leading her team of stylists, **Joanne Thomas**, and **Enrico Eta**, with the help of **Denny Berdiales**. And boy, did they work. From 9 in the morning through until midnight!

Laughs Zeina, "This was the first time in my 30-year career that I worked for over 15 hours straight. But it was a great experience and we made a lot of new friends in the process, and we would like to thank organizer and host, **Lynn Gauvreau**, for believing in **Salon Odyssey**."

Truly a hair-raising experience, I would imagine!

And that's a wrap!

E-mail: [creation@videotron.ca](mailto:creation@videotron.ca)



PHOTO BY STEPHANIE AVAKIAN  
**Odyssey stylists extraordinaire, Zeina Abdul Karim (left) and Joanne Thomas, together with their team, worked 15 hours in one straight session to help make all 23 swimsuit contestants look like a winner**



PHOTO COURTESY LISA PRITCHARD  
**A photo is worth a thousand words.**

# Pincourt welcomes new commercial development

John Jantak

Your Local Journal

Work has begun on Place Pincourt, a new commercial and retail project that is being built on Boulevard du Traversier adjacent to eastbound Highway 20 that will increase the number of commercial and retail outlets in the town.

Construction began about two weeks ago as the land owned by Groupe Iberville next to the recently opened Rona hardware outlet was clear-cut to begin preparing for the new commercial mini-satellite structure that will feature four outlets including a bank and restaurant.

Town Manager Michel Perrier couldn't reveal specifics about any of the businesses that will set up shop, but said it's the first phase of what could possibly be more mini-satellite centres comprised of four outlets that may be built in the future on the 25,000 square feet of land that is owned by Iberville.

"We're very pleased to see new stores being built in our territory," Perrier told *Your Local Journal*. "We're anticipating more new commercial activity as well. It's small right now but it's an additional phase that's going to add to the different services that are available to our citizens. Hopefully there's more to come."

The new construction is also the result of the town's efforts to help rejuvenate and expand the town's commercial area which will also generate more tax revenue.

"It's part of the effort that the town is putting into expanding commerce in Pincourt by constantly talking to our commercial partners to generate more activity," said Perrier. "It's a small accomplishment but a good accomplishment. It's adding to the already existing commercial activity in the town and will help to bring in more tax revenue. Every



BY JOHN JANTAK

Construction work has begun on Place Pincourt, a new commercial and retail project that is being built on Boulevard du Traversier adjacent to eastbound Highway 20 that will increase the number of commercial and retail outlets in the town.

little bit helps so this is a good start."

Perrier doesn't foresee the new commercial development having a negative impact on efforts to increase the number of retail outlets and revive the nearby Le Faubourg de L'Île indoor shopping plaza on Boulevard Cardinal Léger. The mall has been going through a difficult time and has about 20 closed store fronts.

"I doubt it will have an impact," said Perrier. "The new construction is a small satellite area and it will feature specialty outlets like the restaurant and bank. It's not going to be competing with anything that is already in place at the shopping centre. Hopefully, both sites can benefit from the new addition."

The town has been working diligently with representatives of Cogir Management Group, the owners of Le Faubourg on different marketing strategies for the past two years to decrease the retail vacancy rate and to lure new tenants into the mall.

"They're still looking at new development opportunities for the actual site, including new tenants and a new orientation," said Perrier.

*Continued on page 16*

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## HÔPITAL VÉTÉRINAIRE ST-LAZARE & des Trois-Lacs



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# StoryFest 2015 opens October's stellar literary line-up with Kim Thuy

*Greenwood's annual festival of writers brings Canada's best to Hudson*

**James Parry**

*Your Local Journal*

Last March, Greenwood's StoryFest 2015 Committee was busy putting together all the details of their upcoming season presenting the crème-de-la-crème of Canada's vibrant literary scene when the news came that the author who would feature as its opening event, Kim Thuy, had just won CBC's prestigious Canada Reads competition.

Thuy's exquisite novel of emigration, loss and new life, *Ru*, had captured the nation-wide event, a win that made StoryFest's committee as excited as audiences will be next Thursday, October 1, when the Vietnamese-born Canadian novelist takes centre stage and opens Hudson's very own literary festival for another year.

Born in Saigon in 1968, and displaced with her family as 'boat people' to a refugee camp in Malaysia and then Quebec in 1978, Thuy now lives in Longueuil. She was a lawyer and restaurant owner before writing her two multi-award winning novels.

*Ru* (Libre Expression, 2010) was Thuy's first novel and won the Governor General's Award for French language fiction that year. The novel was also nominated for the 2012 Giller Prize and the 2013 Amazon.ca First Novel Award when, translated by the award-winning Sheila Fischman, it was released in English. Thuy then won the 2015 CBC Canada Reads competition for *Ru*. Her most recent novel is *Man* (Random House, 2014), also translated by Fischman, and another number one seller last winter.

Thuy will appear at the Stephen F. Shaar Community Centre in Hudson Thursday, October 1, at 2 p.m. as the opening event of StoryFest 2015, and will also make a special visit to Westwood Senior High School to address French students as part of the month-long literary festival.

This is the 14th year of StoryFest, a much-anticipated annual event on the calendar of the almost 300 year-old house and property that is now the Greenwood Centre for Living History.

Every year, the festival brings writers of great renown to Hudson and the

line-up that follows Thuy's opener is no exception. *Poetry in Performance* featuring three poets will be presented on Monday, October 5, at Hudson Village Theatre starting at 7:30 p.m. as will Ann-Marie MacDonald on Wednesday, October 7, also at 7:30 p.m. Other authors include Kathleen Winter (October 14), Lisa Moore (October 17), Lauren B. Davis' Writers' Workshop (October 18), Sean Michaels (October 20), Tomson Highway (October 22), and David Halton (October 27).

Kim Thuy's event will include tea and gingerbread, and single tickets are almost sold out but you can still buy them online at:

[www.greenwoodstoryfest.com](http://www.greenwoodstoryfest.com) or at Boutique Pure Art, 422 Main Road in Hudson. A few festival passes are still available and cost \$95 for a total \$150 value.

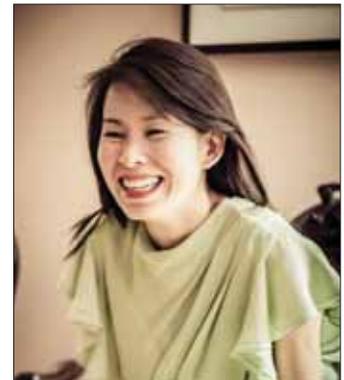


PHOTO BY VU QUANG

Critically-acclaimed author Kim Thuy will open Greenwood's StoryFest 2015 on Thursday, October 1 at 2 p.m. at Hudson's Community Centre.

## A real treasure



PHOTO BY JAMES PARRY

Hudson's very own Antique Road Show, Greenwood's Treasures in the Attic, was once again appraised a great success at St. James Church Hall on Saturday, September 19. Shown here is Diana Togneri who brought in a painting to be evaluated by Kevin Colgan, and Audrey Gray who created the first show over a decade ago.



Umm...Umm...



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# All set to seduce



PHOTO BY KEL DEEGAN

Les Belle Soeurs of Hudson are just one of the many surprises that can be expected to dot the streets of the Town of Hudson over the four-day period of September 24 to 27 as the town prepares to welcome a CBC film crew for the filming of the smash hit 'La Petite Séduction' as, in the program's tradition, an attempt is made to make a well-known personality fall in love with a number of small towns across the province. Actress Maude Guerin is about to be swept off her feet by all Hudson has to offer but a resounding success needs the cooperation of the

entire community.

Michele Guenette, the manager at LaCache, is so enamoured with Hudson, she approached the organizing committee and offered to help with the welcoming of Guerin by dressing the volunteers à la Belle Soeur style. There will be lots more surprises coming her way including singing sensation Mathieu Holubowski who will also be part of the scenarios presented to Guerin in the full two days of the production.

For further information, please contact Kel Deegan at (514) 268-5785 or (450) 458-1476.



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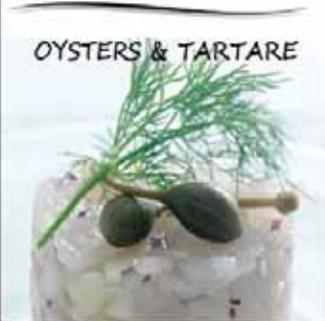
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# Give your used bike a second life

CoGovélo - Coopérative du Grand Orme Sept. 27 bike drive for Cyclo Nord-Sud

**Stephanie O'Hanley**

*Special Contributor*

Have a bike that's gathering dust? Is it in good, or at least repairable, condition with wheels that measure at least 20 inches?

For the second year in a row, members of coGovélo collective at the COOP du Grand Orme are holding a bike collection drive for Cyclo Nord-Sud Sunday, September 27, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the COOP, 153 Ste. Anne St. in Ste. Anne de Bellevue.

The event will happen rain or shine.

"We did a collection last year," said Bruno Haas, a member of the coGovélo bike collective who is secretary on the COOP's board of directors. "It was very successful and we managed to collect 61 bicycles," Haas said. "We had a big crew of volunteers - we were around 10 people. We were really, really happy with the result so we decided to conduct it again this year."

Donated bikes will head by container from the 'North' to the 'South,' to one of Cyclo Nord-Sud's partners in Ghana, Togo, Nicaragua, El Sal-

vador, Burkina Faso or Haiti, where they'll benefit families and serve as a valuable means of transportation.

To cover transport costs, a minimum cash donation of \$15 per bike is requested. While the donation isn't mandatory, it's strongly advised, Haas said. "We strongly recommend participation for the shipping to cover part of the shipping cost," he said. "It actually costs more than \$15 to do the whole handling and delivering on the other end but that contribution is very strongly suggested."

In exchange, donors receive a tax receipt for the market value of the bike and the cash donation. "Someone from Cyclo Nord-Sud is there and they can actually evaluate the bicycle," Haas said. "They will give an official receipt that people can put with their tax returns."

Based on last year's experience, Haas said as news spreads about this year's event he expects people to phone with questions. "Last year we had a few calls with people asking what's going to happen to the bicycle or asking about the \$15 or general questions such as if they should do something to the bike before bring-



PHOTO COURTESY CYCLO NORD-SUD

A group of volunteers round up useable or repairable bicycles to donate to developing countries at last year's Cyclo Nord-Sud event. Following its success, another bike roundup is taking place Saturday, September 27.

ing it. The answer being 'No.'

"You just bring it, there's quite a few volunteers who will just turn the handlebars to make sure the bicycles take as little space as possible in the truck," he said. "People who bring the bicycles don't have to worry about that."

Haas said the coGovélo collective, a "crew of bicycle enthusiasts" whose actions include repairing bikes free of charge at Ste. Anne's Market, learned about Cyclo Nord-Sud while hanging out with fellow

bike enthusiasts at Santropol Roulant downtown.

"We heard of collections being organized so we decided to have one because we're all about sharing," he said. "We are bicycle people and it's a mode of transportation without any hydrocarbons."

As well, Haas used to have a roommate from Senegal. "We realized from talking to him that in Senegal, in most of Africa culturally they don't do that (bicycling) very easily, they just walk or take cars.

"It's an attempt to help Africa to get on two wheels," Haas said. "If we send bicycles to Africa the hope is that culturally there's a shift... we want to see more bicycles in Africa."

For more information about Cyclo Nord-Sud or the upcoming event, call Don Tito at (514) 457-0858.

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## Hodgson, Michael Wayne



March 11, 1952 - Sept. 3, 2015

Passed away with dignity at the Centre hospitalier régional du Suroît with his cherished partner of 33 years, Luce Piché by his side.

Son of the late Blanche Hulley and the late Stanley Hodgson. Survived by his brother Brian Hodgson (Ann) and his sister Gail Wright (Chuck). He will be fondly remembered by his nephew Clark Hodgson, niece Jill Hodgson Jesty (Scott) and great niece Evan Jesty. Heartfelt appreciation to Mr Ralph Simpson for his kindness and continued support.

A service will be held on **October 10th at 2:00pm at the Cote St Charles United Church**, 2503, Cote St Charles, St Lazare, Qc

Outre sa conjointe, famille, parents et amis, Wayne laisse dans le deuil tous ceux qui l'ont connu et aimé.

Les funérailles auront lieu samedi, **le 10 octobre à 14h en l'église Côte St Charles United Church**, 2503, Côte St-Charles, St Lazare, Qc

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# Pincourt

Continued from page 11

"We're confident that things will work out. It's just a matter of time before things are going to shape up in a good way."

One proposal announced by the town was to set up an indoor kids' playground during the winter as a way

to attract more people into the mall. Perrier said the discussions are still in place with Cogir, but that nothing has been formally decided yet.

Perrier is optimistic about the eventual revival of Le Faubourg, saying its general manager successfully managed to revive Les Galleries des Sources in Pointe-Claire and is confident the same thing will happen with Pincourt's largest indoor mall.

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# YLJ around the world



PHOTO COURTESY ANNE LAROCHE

Hudson's Anne and Luc Laroche recently celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary in Tuscany, Italy and took a break to catch up on the news back home with *Your Local Journal*. Congratulations Anne and Luc!

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# Come back to church at the 'new' St. James' Anglican Church Sunday, September 27

Laurie Tomita

Special contributor



PHOTO COURTESY LAURIE TOMITA

Following an extensive renovation period, St. James' Anglican Church is once again open for everything from Sunday services to music festivals and events.

It's with a sense of pride and anticipation that the Parish of Vaudreuil is inviting everyone to join with them in celebrating their newly renovated historic Hudson landmark. St. James' Church has been open for 173 years to worshippers of all ages and backgrounds, pilgrims on their journeys, Boy Scouts (and other groups), concert-goers, picnickers and exercise classes throughout the year. This week, with their extensive renovation of their worship area, they are showing the fact that their deep commitment to the community in the past is something that extends into the future.

On Sunday, September 27, a special 11 a.m. service will be held in the main church nave after closing for many months for these major renovations. The project included extensive planning, careful removal of all church moveables, rewiring to accommodate new technological enhancements, a total refacing of our interior walls, repainting, floor finishing and final reconfiguration of the interior furnishings. The 11 a.m. service will be followed by a coffee and cake reception to celebrate this major milestone in our church's long history.

Since the arrival of Rector, the Reverend Eleanor Caruana in 2009, new ministries have been launched to enhance the core schedule of regular services and pastoral care.

Lay Pastoral Minister, Patricia Halford now leads the pastoral care ministry on a full-time basis. Together / Ensemble, a children's ministry, is a weekly 'camp-style' program welcoming children and

their parents Saturday afternoons from 4:30 to 6 p.m. which includes dinner. Catch the Spirit Cafe provides fellowship, food and guest speakers every fourth Sunday afternoon at St. Mary's Parish Hall to learn about the spirituality which can be found in activities such as art, music, pets, exploring nature, and caring for others, just to name a few. Summer Day Camp is a week of activities and learning for children aged 4 to 12 years every July. This year a record number of campers (51) attended a fun-filled week themed "Come to Nazareth." The community of St. James Church is recognizing, with gratitude, the Anglican Foundation of Canada for awarding a \$15,000 grant which was approved in May 2015. This generous grant enabled the Parish of Vaudreuil to proceed with confidence in completing this major renovation project that aims to provide current and future worshippers a safe, flexible and welcoming environment.

Refer to website <http://www.parishofvaudreuil.com> for any further information and updates on the special service on September 27.

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"BRS Express stands for Benoit Robichaud Services because when I started my company twelve years ago, I already had a company registered as Benoit Robichaud Services," explained Benoit Robichaud, owner of BRS Express Inc. "When I became incorporated, I took the BRS and added the word "Express" because our policy is to contact our clients within 48 hours and assess their needs. Therefore the company name reflects the quick service we provide for our clients. What makes us different from our competitors is the quality, products, and the diversity of services offered and our turn-around time."

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BRS Express also offers extended services, as they sell in-store products for do it yourself projects. Things to be found in their shop include items such as touch-up crayons, furniture polish, anti-scratch treatments, leather cleaners, UV protectors, reclining mechanisms including handles, and textiles. The store provides a catalogue featuring different upholstery materials, such as imitation leathers and vinyls.

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# The English Gardener

*We have fairies at the bottom of the garden*



### James Parry

*Your local Journal*

Over the past couple of weeks, fairies have begun appearing in our garden. Well, not actually the little winged creatures themselves. But

rather, what in England have long been known as fairy rings. Fungi in other words. Mushrooms, toadstools, call them what you will. But boy, are they ever beautiful.

Seemingly sprouting up in the grass and on my woodchip pathways literally overnight. To last perhaps only a day or two before they crumble and die. Sometimes for weeks on tree stumps that I have collected to use as natural pedestals for our collections of garden ornaments comprising gnomes, frogs and, yes, fairies.

In shades of white, creams, browns, yellows and oranges, they sometimes crop in small village-like clusters out of a children's book illustration. Sometimes singly. Sometimes, particularly on stumps and decaying branches, spreading out from a single centerpiece like solid waves cascading on a beach.

Whatever their shape, colour, or size, however, they all serve the same essential service. As great recyclers playing a major part with bacteria in breaking down organic matter. Indeed it has been said that, without them, we would soon be up to our ears in dead plant matter!

So why fairy rings? In England, as their name suggests, they were thought to be places where fairies would come to dance. The mushrooms around the perimeter were seats where the sprites could rest after their exertions. And people in rural England claimed to have seen fairies dancing at fairy rings as recently as the start of the 20th century.

In France, they were called sorcerers' rings and in Austria, witches' rings with a Tyrolean legend claiming that the rings were burned into the ground by the fiery tail of a dragon. In Holland they were said to be the marks where the devil rested his milk churn. Indeed, in Europe, the belief that fungi were the work of evil spirits or witches persisted well into the 19th century.

Regardless of the country, one common theme in all these traditions is the belief that severe consequences await anyone stupid enough to enter a fairy ring. Trespassers would be struck blind or

lame, or even disappear to become slaves in the fairies' underground realm.

On a happier note, the rings were said to bring good luck to houses built in gardens where they occur. Which is why I treat them with the utmost respect, careful never to step on them or mow them over. And that's the truth!

In researching this article, I was fascinated to learn that while all mushrooms are fungi, not all fungi are mushrooms. Evidently, for those fungi that produce them, the mushroom plays a similar role to a flower or a fruit in plants. Some part of each mature mushroom produces microscopic spores that are similar to pollen or seeds, sometimes numbering in the trillions

The rest of the fungal organism typically lives in the soil, wood, or some other material and is composed of thread-like strands known as mycelium, the expanding growth of which often results in circles of mushrooms. Ergo, fairy rings. Individual mycelium can grow quite large, by the way. With at least one well-documented case covering more than 1,500 acres in Oregon!

When it comes to literature, probably the best known-and perhaps most inspired-literary mushroom of all is the one nibbled by Alice in her *Adventures in Wonderland*. Eating from one side of the mushroom makes her grow larger; eating from the other side makes her shrink. It's possible that author Lewis Carroll knew of the properties of the red and white species called *Fly Agaric*. One effect of this hallucinogenic fungus is to make objects appear larger or smaller in the user's eye.

Down the ages, from Shakespeare to J.K. Rowling, fungi have also sprouted regularly in literature. Shakespeare seems to have had fungus in mind when he penned *The Tempest*. Prospero observes that it is elves' pastime to "make midnight mushrooms," and one scholar has suggested that the fits of Caliban show that he was suffering from ergot poisoning. In more recent times, it's no surprise to find fungal references at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry in the *Harry Potter* stories.

And, speaking of magical properties, here's food for thought. After Mount St. Helens erupted in 1980, fungi were among the first organisms to recolonize the volcano. Go figure!

*Until next time, have fun in your garden. And watch out for those skeeters!*  
E-mail : [creation@videotron.ca](mailto:creation@videotron.ca)



# The Local Equestrian Scene

## Health benefits of horses

**Shelagh McNally**

*Special contributor*

It's an ancient bond stretching as far back as the Paleolithic Era when humans were drawing their pictures

in the Lascaux Caves.

Our love of horses has not diminished through the years but the setting has changed. Horseback riding is becoming popular with urbanites and suburbanites looking for non-traditional exercise outside the gym. Both challenging and calming, this sport is as effective as weight training, strengthening core muscles while improving balance, coordination and stability. Arms and shoulders get a good workout along with the thighs and pelvis while posture, flexibility and overall muscle tone improves. However, it turns out the most powerful benefit is emotional. Hanging out with horses is good for our wellbeing.

A pilot study by Professor Ellen Gehrke at the Institute of HeartMath tracked how horses' heart rates react to nearby humans acting as an unspoken mirror for emotions. Their instinctive and sensitive response creates an instant and intense connection with us.

"Horses are very social animals

and have many of the same fears and reflexes as humans. When you work with horses there is a very strong non-verbal communication," said Cheryl Green, a director at the Lucky Harvest Project (LHP).

For more than 20 years, Quebec-based LHP has been offering hippo-therapy and therapeutic riding sessions for special needs children and adults. Hippotherapy, from the Greek 'hippos' (horse) and 'therapy' (care), focuses on responding to the horse rather than trying to control it. There is no jumping or other show-stopping moves but the riders feel the horse's movements. This triggers muscles that improve motor skills, dexterity and balance. Add the benefit of socializing with the horses and you have a powerful therapy.

"Many start off like noodles completely flopped over and you watch them get their balance. We see many transformations as the kids start to respond and come of their shell," said Green.

Veteran Groups have also noticed the healing power of horses. Programs such as Can Praxis, Wounded Warriors and Horses for Heroes have created therapeutic riding schools helping veterans recover from PTSD and other trauma. Creating a bond of communication, trust and understanding has helped many veterans with their anxiety.

It turns out horses are also good listeners making them a perfect choice for troubled teens. Programs such as Alberta's Healing Hooves has helped more than a thousand teens, mostly girls, get back on their feet.

"Everyone can benefit from horseback riding," said Green.

Find out more about this sport at the annual Lucky Harvest horse fair fundraiser on September 27. This There will be pony rides, riding demos along with a horse exhibits and artisans. For more details visit [www.facebook.com/TheLuckyHarvestProject](http://www.facebook.com/TheLuckyHarvestProject).

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To submit your "Things to See and Do", send your information to editor @ yourlocaljournal.ca before Monday noon. All announcements should include dates, times and addresses. Publishing priority will be given to non-profit and community based groups.

**BEACONSFIELD**

The **Beaconsfield Hooking Crafters Guild** is celebrating its 40th anniversary with events throughout the month of September. A mini exhibition, demonstrations and workshops are available for children and adults at the Beaconsfield library. The main event is an exhibition of 40 years of hooked rugs at Centennial Hall, 288 Beaconsfield Blvd. Friday, Saturday and Sunday, September 25 - 27 from noon to 5 p.m. each day. All events are free and open to the public. For more information visit [www.beaconsfieldrughooking.com](http://www.beaconsfieldrughooking.com) or call Mrs. Seymour at (514) 247-9310.

**Bridge** supervised play taking place Mondays at 1 p.m. at St. Edmunds Church, 105 Beaconsfield Blvd. Price is \$ 7 (includes refreshments). For starting date and information call (514) 626-1923.

**DORVAL**

The **Dorval Astronomy Club** invites all astronomy amateurs to participate in the 35th edition of the CAFTA contest presented in collaboration with the Fédération des astronomes amateurs du Québec (FAAQ). Special guest, Dr. Pierre Bastien, astrophysicist and professor at the Physics department of the Université de Montréal, will present the lecture "Le Canada participe au projet du futur télescope (TMT) de 30 mètres" Saturday September 26, at 4:30 p.m. at the Community Center Sarto-Desnoyers in Dorval. It is free of charge to participate in this astronomy event as well as entrance to the Community Center. If weather permits, we may have telescopes out to stargaze and the public is always welcomed. For more information email [marjos@ca.inter.net](mailto:marjos@ca.inter.net).

**HUDSON**

**Bridge** will begin Thursday, October 1, 9 to 11:45 a.m. at St. Thomas Church, 413 Main Road. There is a \$2 charge for snacks and coffee. **Free beginners' lessons, intermediate room with coaching, as well as supervised duplicate room.** No partner needed. For info, call Louise Deslauriers at (450) 458-1923 or Pam Harding at (450) 458-4199.

Saint Mary's Sewing Circle is holding its annual **Pasta Dinner** Friday, September 25, in Saint Mary's Hall, 261 Main Road, at 6 p.m. Adults \$10 and \$5 for children 12 and under. Please R.S.V.P. to Elsie (450) 458-5226.

**Come and play with clay.** Culture Days Pottery Studio open house with wheel throwing demonstrations by ceramic artist Jen Baumeister, and free "hands-on clay" station featuring pottery wheel self-serve table for you to try it out yourself. Friday Sept 25, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday, September 26, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday, September 27, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 112 rue Maple.

The next **Rendez-Vous luncheon**, at the Stephen F. Shaar Community Centre, 394 Main Road, will be Tuesday, September 29. The guest speaker will be Ron Hodgson. He will talk about, "Hudson after 1867." Lunch is served at 12:30 p.m. The price is \$5.

**Shindig - A free concert** featuring lo-

cal homegrown bands will be held Friday, September 25 from 6 to 10 p.m. at Jack Layton Park, 400 rue Halcro. Hudson-based band Frisky Kids will be headlining and will be joined by four other area groups, The Casuals, The Shutters, A2K, and Whiskey Hotel. The event is being hosted by Hudson Parks and Recreation.

Wyman Memorial United Church launches two new initiatives including a retooling of traditional Sunday school and its Messy Church program. Come join us in an event of faith and fellowship, with activities for everyone, with music and a pizza supper. Messy because finger paints are a possibility. Or it could be because the events are not wrapped as 'tidy' packages like most Sunday worship services. Movement, noise, spontaneity, adults and children together: these things make it 'untidy' in a different way. So remember...Saturday, September 26, from 4:30 to 6:30 at Wyman, 513 Main Road. There is no charge for attendance, but the organizers wouldn't mind if you let them know you are interested in coming so they don't run out of food! (Donations accepted, but not required!) Register at [www.wyman-hudson.ca](http://www.wyman-hudson.ca) and click on "Messy Church". Everyone welcome.

**PINCOURT**

On Thursday, October 1, Julie de Belle will be hosting an open mic, free of charge, in multiple languages.

So bring along your song, slam or spoken word performance and join in the fun. 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Kaffecino at the Faubourg de l'île Shopping Plaza, 101 Cardinal Léger Boulevard.

**POINTE CLAIRE**

The West Island Women's Centre will hold a seminar called **"The Six Human Needs"** Tuesday, September 29, from 1 to 3 p.m. at St. Columba by the Lake Church, 11 Rodney Avenue, (Enter by the parking lot entrance on Vincennes). All seminars are free and open to the general public. Please call to register. Free childcare for preschool-aged children is available, but you must register for this service by 3 p.m. the day before. Note you may not bring your child with you to the seminar room. For more information, call (514) 695-8529. Our e-mail address is [wivw@qc.aibn.com](mailto:wivw@qc.aibn.com).

**2806 Pointe Claire Army Cadets** meets every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the basement of the Pointe-Claire Public Security Building 399 Boulevard St. Jean. Open to all youth ages 12-18 and free of charge. Visit us at [2806cadets.ca](http://2806cadets.ca) or call (514) 630-1321.

**STE. ANNE DE BELLEVUE**

**Parenting Children 0-10 years**, a five (5) week DVD seminar series, Thursdays October 1- 28 from 7-9 p.m. Course fee: \$25 (financing options available). St. George's Anglican Church, 23 Perrault St. office@stg.church, (514) 457-6934.

**Volunteer West Island Seniors' Café** is a popular, volunteer-driven, social activity taking place the second Wednesday of each month, between 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. from September through June. The Café provides a friendly environment, complete with refreshments, musical entertainment, sing-a-longs, dancing and guest entertainers - a place to meet others and have a good time. Come join us October 14, November 11, or December 9 at 1, rue de l'Eglise. Space is limited and reservations are taken on a first come first serve basis. Please call (514) 457-5445 #231

**ST. LAZARE**

**St-Lazare Inspirers Toastmasters Club** welcomes you to its open house on Monday, September 28th at 7:30 p.m. We invite you to come and see for yourself what we're all about. If you would like to improve your communication skills and become a better leader, Toastmasters could be the place for you. We meet every Monday evening at 7:30 in the St-Lazare Library on 1301 rue du Bois. We hope you'll join us. For more information, visit <http://sli.toastmastersclubs.org> or contact Robin at (514) 982-2251 Ext. 377.

**VAUDREUIL-DORION**

Centre d'action bénévole L'Actual is pleased to open, once again, its doors to all of the population for its **New Children's Clothing Sale** from the collection of the "Aide Aux Petits" Service "Help for the Little Ones." Shop for children's clothing, handmade in Quebec by dedicated volunteers with exceptional talents, in children's sizes 0 to 5 years. Are you a grandparent who loves to spoil your grandchildren?

This sale is an exceptional opportunity to obtain exclusive confections. Don't miss this unique opportunity, one day only, Saturday September 26, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at our boutique on 88 Adèle Street in the conference rooms of the second floor. Note that the entrance is by the front door on Adèle Street. All income from this sale is returned to servicing families and individuals living temporary difficulties in our community.

**FURTHER AFIELD**

The Apples and Arts Studio Tour is inviting the public to the various Regional Artist Studios and Host Sites to meet an array of inventive talent, to see the processes involved in their work and the imaginative, unique creations achieved. Come on out, September 26 and 27 between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. to experience the imagination of the 40+ artists at 22 various locations throughout Stormont, Dundas, Glengarry and Cornwall. Entry to all sites is free. Visit [www.applesandarts.ca](http://www.applesandarts.ca) for more info. This is a family friendly event which is geared to all ages.

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Check website for complete StoryFest 2015 line-up!

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\*The festival pass does not include the Writers' Workshop

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# Rigaud ready to celebrate its colours

**Jules-Pierre Malartre**

*Special contributor*

The organizers of Rigaud's Festival des Couleurs announced its 2015 programming during a press conference held September 16 in Desjardins-de-Rigaud Park.

The Festival celebrates its 18th edition this year and Richard Dubois, communication and associative life Director for Caisse Desjardins, drew warm applause when he said, "At eighteen, the Festival has now reached the Age of Reason." The festival has indeed grown in size and popularity over the years and has become a mainstay autumn attraction that serves to prolong the touristic season in the region. "The people who attend the festival, coming mostly from Vaudreuil-Soulanges,

generate important economic spinoffs for our small town," said Isabelle Verdier, president of the festival's board of directors.

The organizers expect over 45,000 festival-goers this year, and the committee is ramping up its programming to meet the increasing number of attendees. The festival will hold events and activities of interest in three main geographical hubs, including Rigaud Mountain.

Rigaud Mountain features prominently in the programming. "In all our tasks, we always remember that we must showcase the jewel of our region, our majestic mountain. Mont Rigaud is powering our development, and it always inspires us to design various activities for our recreational and touristic guests," Verdier said.

She also took a moment to pay homage to Pierre Brasseur, the festival's photographer, who passed away earlier this year. Organizers will further honour Brasseur with a special exhibition of some of his best photographs of the region's winged fauna.

The introduction of an "off-festival" segment this year consists of events planned in other surrounding municipalities, including a series of exhibitions at the Vaudreuil-Soulanges Regional Museum in Vaudreuil-Dorion and a special performance by the Manigance dance troupe in Coteau-du-Lac.

Rigaud Mayor Hans Gruenwald Jr. made a striking entrance during the press conference riding a three-wheel cycle courtesy of 'Un Vélo une Ville', the eco and community friendly transport service that aims to help the elderly be more active in their community and that hires young dropouts to help them get back on track. Four of those three-wheel cycles will be available during the festival to help improve mobility for the attendees.

"Festival des couleurs is part of our identity in Rigaud," Gruenwald said. "It is an important tool in my toolbox when I am selling our municipality, because the welcoming population's role as host contributes significantly during the festival." Gruenwald also



PHOTO BY JULES-PIERRE MALARTRE  
Rigaud Mayor Hans Gruenwald Jr. arrives in style on a three wheel cycle at the recent Festival des Couleurs press conference.

thanked the volunteers and stressed the importance of their work in the Festival's continued success.

Music will be an important part of the festival this year. Wilfred LeBouthillier will be the Festival's special artistic guest for 2015. LeBouthillier will offer a special performance in the more intimate setting and great acoustics of Église Ste-Madeleine de Rigaud. Isabelle Young will also offer a performance where she will pay homage to great Quebec composers. Both performances will be offered at a reasonable cost.

The Festival will take place over three days, starting October 10 and lasting through Thanksgiving October 12. You can visit the Festival's website ([festivaldescouleurs.com](http://festivaldescouleurs.com)) or Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/festivaldescouleurs?fref=ts>) to find out more about the event and its programming.

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