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Your Local

West Island Journal

VOL. 14 NO. 159 | June 26, 2015

Via Canada Post

Hudson, St. Lazare, Vaudreuil-Dorion, Pincourt, and the West Island

Due to the Canada Day holiday, our next publication date will be Friday, July 3

*Hudson resident fights the lawn...
See story on page 5*

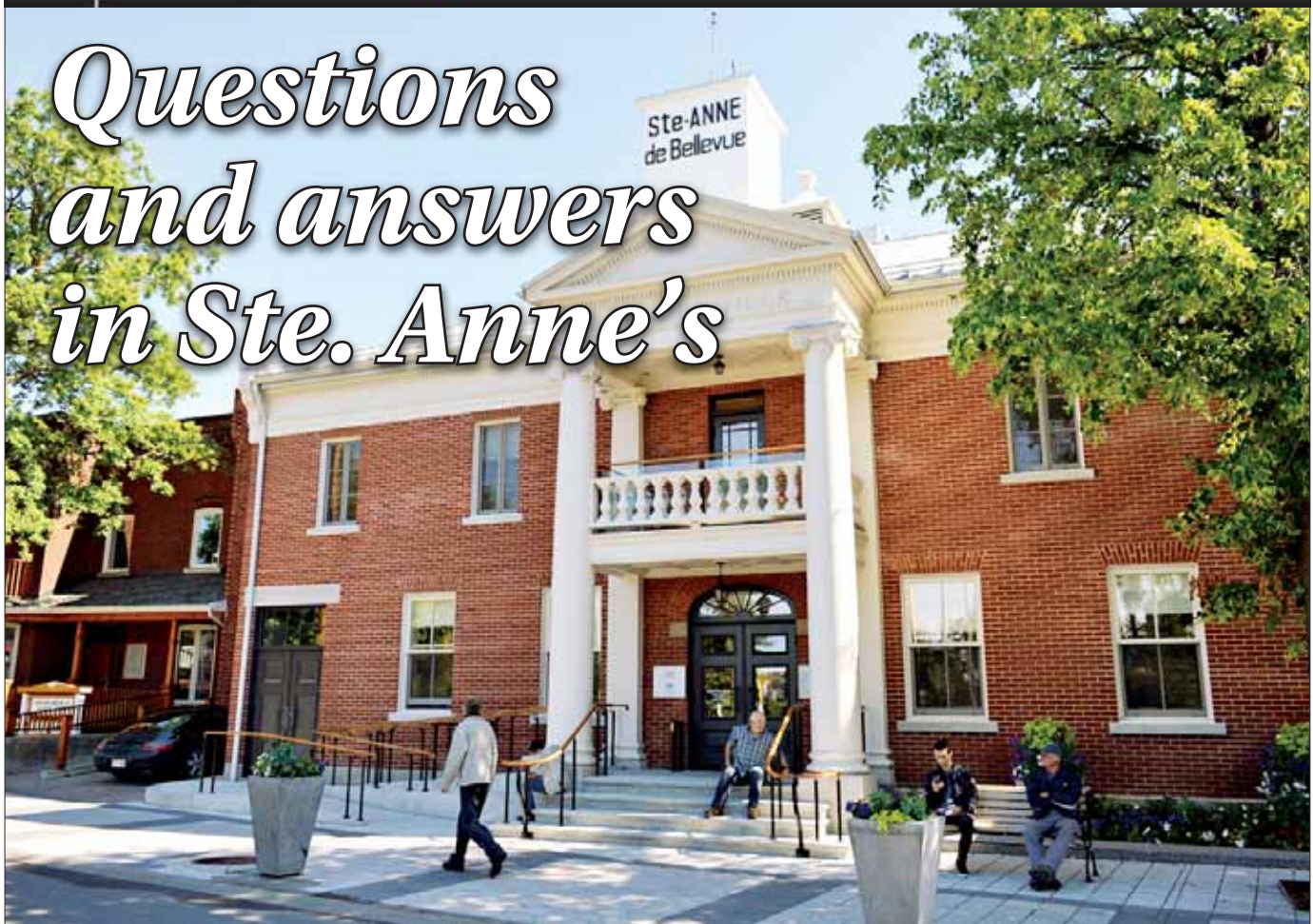


PHOTO BY JOHN JANTAK

The Ministère des Affaires municipales et du l'Occupation territoire (MAMOT) has admonished the City of Ste. Anne de Bellevue for not allowing residents to ask questions directly to any member of city council during question period after a complaint was filed by resident Michel Belleau. See story on page 3.

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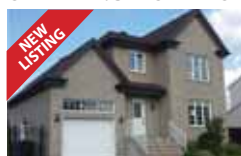
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Ste. Anne council admonished for violating question period protocol

John Jantak

Your Local Journal

Ste. Anne de Bellevue has been rebuked for not allowing residents to ask questions directly to any member of city council during council sessions after a complaint was filed by resident Michel Belleau to the Ministère des Affaires municipales et Occupation du territoire (MAMOT) about the situation.

A copy of the letter dated June 11 was obtained by *Your Local Journal*. It was signed by MAMOT Commissioner Richard Villeneuve, a chartered accountant and sent to Ste. Anne Director General Martin Bonhomme, stating the city was in apparent violation of Article 24 of its municipal By-law 768 which gives the mayor discretion as to who should answer any question asked by citizens.

Belleau filed the complaint with the MAMOT a few days following the city council meeting in April after Mayor Paola Hawa refused to allow his request to address a question directly to a specific council member.

Hawa said at the time that as president of the meeting, all questions had to be addressed directly to her and she would decide who was best qualified to respond. This didn't sit well with Belleau who said he had a right to ask his question to any person on council and not have Hawa determine who would answer it.

"It's a great victory for me and I feel great because I knew I was right. At that meeting, the mayor told me that I had to ask my question directly to her and she would decide whether to redirect it to someone or answer it herself," Belleau told *Your Local Journal*.

"The mayor said there's a city-by-law that allows it," Belleau added. "Well, I'm sorry, but that cannot be allowed to supersede the provincial law. This is serious." The letter stated the city was

in contravention of Article 322 of the provincial Cities and Towns act which allows any member of the public to address a question to any member of council during question period.

Belleau said he was stunned by the mayor's response, especially considering that Hawa, District 1 Councillor Dana Chevalier and Town Clerk Catherine Adam are all lawyers. He also contends that both Adam and Chevalier should have spoken out about the violation of protocol at the time instead of remaining silent.

Belleau contends the incident showcases Hawa's apparent attempt to override the municipality's democratic process, and contradicts her public stance on having an open and transparent council when she was campaigning for mayor in October 2013.

"It also goes against the three 'governing principles' related to her current administration, 'Citizen first, communication, and transparency.' This is what's posted in the message from the mayor on the Ste. Anne website," said Belleau.

The letter also advises the city to inform all council members of the MAMOT's decision. But for Hawa who began enforcing the municipal regulation a few months earlier, said she began adhering to Article 24 to maintain order during council sessions because of derogatory comments that were directed towards her and other council members by citizens during previous sessions.

"We will be appealing that decision," said Hawa. "If you noticed the person that signed it is not even a lawyer but an accountant. We don't give much credibility to that stance and having discussed the MAMOT's pseudo-position with many other mayors and seeing how other municipalities function, everybody is pretty much on board that it makes no sense.

"You would end up having a zoo



YLJ FILE PHOTO/CARMEN MARIE FABIO

Ste. Anne de Bellevue Mayor Paola Hawa said she will appeal the MAMOT ruling that says the city is in violation of Article 24 of By-law 768 by stating who answers questions at council meetings.

and chaos if such a thing happened and I challenge anybody to show me a single city that does that. There's always a president of the council meeting in Montreal and everywhere. It even respects Robert's Rules of Order," added Hawa, referring to the guide for parliamentary procedure.

When asked what she thought about Belleau's complaint, Hawa said,

"If anything, this demonstrates how people will use the municipal council process for political gain and that's not what council process is all about. We do not accept the MAMOT ruling from a chartered accountant. It has to go through a lawyer. It makes absolutely no sense that the president of the meeting cannot control it."

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Hearing voices

A well-known cartoon depicts a crowd of people all sharing the same thought bubble that reads, "What can I do? I'm just one person."

And if you've ever thought your one voice wouldn't make a difference, take a look at our Page 3 story this week.

A group of concerned landowners may not have slayed a giant but with virtually no start-up budget they exercised diligence, patience, and unrelenting determination to collectively acquire enough voices to make significant changes in a multi-billion dollar project.

Without the benefit of full-time lobbyist in Ottawa, landowners from areas along the Enbridge pipeline path between Sarnia, Ontario and Montreal East - most while working full-time and raising families - organized and mobilized their protests with enough consistency and intelligence to gather some serious momentum. And their relentless grassroots campaign achieved what they had been seeking, at least in part, in that portions of the four-decade old pipeline earmarked to carry 300,000 barrels of oil per day through our backyards be subjected to rigorous integrity testing.

We live in a world where our voices, thanks to the immediate click of a keyboard or mouse, carry more weight than ever before. The collective, duly motivated, really can change the world.



THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS!

Dear Editor: editor@yourlocaljournal.ca

Dear Editor,

I have just received a hand-delivered - at great expense, no doubt (after 6 p.m.) - missive from the Town of Hudson. I must remove the stones I placed on the edges of my property (to stop garbage trucks, etc. from leaving 6-inch ruts in my grass) or be subject to fines ranging from \$100 to \$4000 depending on whether I am a 'moral' or a 'physical' person! Is somebody out there checking my sex life?

I am expected to keep the edge of my property adjoining the road mowed and tidy. This is impossible as when it rains, trucks leave deep ruts in the grass.

Incidentally, our road that was (allegedly) paved three years ago when sewers were installed looks like Pine Lake on a wet day. Neighbours have complained for years about the second-rate paving job to no avail.

Said rocks have been removed. As a pensioner - moral or not - I cannot afford \$4000 in fines. But rest assured, if my neighbours and I have any say in the next election (and we will) this mayor and council will be long gone. Incidentally, I do not live at 71 Parsons, but 71 Wilkinson. All the other neighbours have the wrong addresses on their notices too.

So much for the efficiency of Town Hall.

**Roy Elliott
Hudson**

Changing the electoral system

Dear Editor,

Justin Trudeau wants to fix the electoral system and get rid of the "first past the post" idea, in order to have a government which is more representative of the people of Canada. Bravo!

I suppose he will come up with a system where all the different points of view on climate change,

prison reform, and other issues will be represented. Nice try!

Maybe he should look around to other countries which have already tried such a scheme. Take the Netherlands, which already has a very representative system. As a result, they now have over 30 parties, many with only one or two members elected to the parliament. It takes the Queen of Holland six months to negotiate some kind of workable coalition in order to govern. It is a recipe for disaster.

No system is perfect, but I warn Mr. Trudeau to be careful before meddling with a system that has served Canada reasonably well these last 148 years.

**Ed Hoyer
Roxboro**

Open letter to Marlene Jennings, School Board Election System Study Panel Head

Dear Ms. Jennings,

The following statement issued by the 'Election System Study Panel' and posted on some school board websites is not only disrespectful to Education Minister Francois Blais but is, quite frankly, disingenuous and misleading in its message.

"As you know, the Minister of Education Francois Blais has announced a tight timeline that gives us only July and August to consult parents and the community at large across Québec." Source: Marlene Jennings on behalf of Elections System Study Panel

The issue of abolishing school board elections has been on the table for a considerable length of time as has the education ministers' request to obtain public feedback and suggestions.

Continued on page 6

Your Local Journal

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PHOTO BY JAMES ARMSTRONG

A Wilkinson Street resident in Hudson says he's tired of dealing with poor paving, up-keep of municipal right of way and notices of by-law infraction.

Hudson residents re-act to by-law contravention warning

James Armstrong

Special Contributor

Hudson resident Roy Elliott was surprised to receive a visit from the Hudson Community Patrol Thursday June 18 after 6 p.m. with the purpose of hand-delivering a warning notice regarding an infraction of By-Law Number 471 on Streets and Public Places. The warning notice quotes Articles 11 and 12 of By-Law 471 concerning the municipal piece of land between the road line and the property line of the landowner.

As is the case with property owners in Hudson, Elliott and his neighbors on Wilkinson and Parsons Streets have been maintaining the strip of municipal land bordering their property by mowing the grass and providing general maintenance. In an attempt to keep the land in question from becoming deeply rutted by large vehicles, some of the residents placed pieces of wood and rocks on it as a protective barrier. Elliott reported that on weekends, vehicles from outside his neighborhood are parked along the side of Wilkinson and Parsons Streets while their owners are hiking, cycling, kayaking or involved in other activities.

Elliott, when contacted by *Your Local Journal* (YLJ) pointed out that the hand-delivered notice was addressed to a property on Parsons Street. "There are only two houses on Parsons and neither one got notices. All the houses on Wilkinson got them," he said. In addition, the copy of the notice provided to YLJ is not dated although it stipulates that obstructions and objects must be removed within five days of receipt of the letter. Elliott confirmed that the obstructions in question had been removed during an interview

Tuesday, June 23. Elliott also pointed out the condition of the pavement on Wilkinson has seriously deteriorated since it was paved about three years ago after the sewage system was installed. "When it rains, it's like Pine Lake," said Elliott referring to the muddy condition of his street. He also noted that particular paving project did not include the stretch of street in front of his property.

Mayor Ed Prévost, when contacted by YLJ, said he was not aware of these particular notices or that they had been hand delivered after hours. The mayor said he would look into the matter and added the application of municipal by-laws applies to all residents equally. "We will be talking about this at the next town council meeting," said Prévost. According to information posted on the new town web site, municipal right of way is governed as follows: "The space between the boundary of your property and the road pavement is designated as a municipal right of way. The maintenance and good order of this municipal space are the responsibility of the frontage resident. It is also prohibited for security reasons to place objects such as rocks, branches, etc. on this municipal right of way."

Mayor Prévost confirmed Thursday, June 25, that Director General Duncan Campbell is aware of notices being issued and that the date and address issue will be corrected. "No one has been enforcing the by-laws," said Prévost, "and now we are." He explained that Carl Séguin, formerly a member of the Community Patrol, is now employed by the town as an inspection agent under the direction of Urban Planning Manager Nathalie Lavoie. Prévost added that notices of infraction would continue to be hand-delivered.

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THE SOAPBOX

**CARMEN MARIE
FABIO**

Going in style

Having never attended a high school prom myself, my first experience with one this past week – once I got over the sticker price shock of the admission ticket – was how to outfit my son who's usually clad in jeans and a rock band T-shirt.

I'm fortunate that my children aren't terribly picky when it comes to clothing and though they are now, as teenagers, beginning to exercise some of their own fashion choices, they grew up wearing pretty much whatever I bought on sale, or at fripperies, without complaining.

"You don't mind that they're second-hand?" I once asked my then 10-year-old of jeans that were not only previously worn, but were Walmart brand to boot.

"I don't really care," he replied.

God I love my kids.

My forays into every thrift shop and church basement in the region kept me and the family afloat while completing grad school, and though I'm now gainfully employed, my kids still don't care about the source of the clothes they wear as long as they meet their respective tastes – and personality.

As my eldest's prom date loomed, I couldn't help but notice posts on Facebook showing proud parents with photos of their own prodigy's prom, replete with dress shoes, ties, and even boutonnières.

"Whaddya think of this?" I asked my son of one of the proud mom-and-son pre-prom photos. "I think he looks really uncomfortable," he said of the young man of comparable age, decked out in a three-piece suit, tie, and shiny shoes.

Undaunted, (or maybe just not listening) I commandeered my eldest off to the West Island's most famous shopping mecca to score the perfect prom outfit before the big day.

Entering myriad stores with lithe mannequins confidently sporting what every young adult should, ostensibly, want, my own offspring kept shrugging his shoulders whenever I held up the suggestion of dress-pants, button-down shirts, or – shudder – loafers.

"This is just not my style," he said, a number of times before I began to listen.

How quickly we forget our own moments of youth where we dig in our heels to ford our own identity by rebelling in the clothing choices our parents make for us. I have vivid memories of wearing the frilly pink pinafore dress my mother had made for me a total of once before, at the age of five, I refused to wear it a second time.

She tried again a few years later with a pale yellow coat (I hate pastels!) with a Peter-Pan collar. Yuck.

It was an epiphanous moment borne of sore feet and exasperation after traipsing around countless stores with screaming soundtracks when I finally realized that in order to get out of there intact, I needed to let my son exercise his own choices.

And so it came to be that he attended his prom wearing black jeans, running shoes, and a black Panthera T-shirt.

When one of the hall employees later chided him for his attire, saying if he ever got invited to a wedding, those clothes wouldn't be permitted, my son calmly said, "If I'm invited, it means it's my friends who are getting married and they know what I'm like. That's why they're my friends."

I think he's ready for the big bad world.

Letters

Continued from page 4

As a matter of fact, news agencies have done polls on abolishing school board elections over the past few months already. All indicating that the Anglo community is in favour of abolishing school board elections if indeed not school boards themselves. For example, a poll initiated by CTVMontreal indicates that 64% of respondents favoured the ending of school board elections. A previous poll done a month earlier had the same result with 66%. Obviously this random poll indicates that the Anglophone Community is solidified in its views in abolishing school board elections similar as to the views expressed by the Québec Francophone population.

It was the legal pursuit rhetoric "going to the Supreme Court" etc. Initially indicated by the QESBA and its various "partners" which was responsible for delaying the consultation process and not the Education Ministers' actions.

We expect that this misleading statement will be corrected to reflect the real situation that created this panels' consultation timeline.

Thanking you in advance for your correction of the statement,

On behalf of www.acdsa.org,

Yours Sincerely,

Luc Horne

Vaudreuil-Dorion

Dear Editor,

Many people have negative occasions to interact with our law enforcement officials. Today I had a great encounter with Carolane Ménard on duty in Pincourt for the Sûreté du Québec. Enjoying the sunny day in my classic MG-B, my long-suffering favourite baseball cap flew off while I was crossing the bridge into Dorion. I did come back around and saw the cap lying beside the concrete dividing wall.

Weighing my options to risk exposure, I asked the officer if she would follow me with flashers on to retrieve my cap. She said that may be dangerous also. I assumed that she would tell me to say bye-bye to the cap, but with little traffic going by, she offered to go and retrieve it for me, and shortly returned with my old friend.

With a great smile, Carolane handed over the cap now sporting a few new battle scars. I offered to buy her an ice cream, but she is not allowed to accept.

Carolane, I sure hope that this great gesture was the most difficult part of your day.

Merci,

Bill Smyth,

Pincourt

Continued on page 8

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Senneville advises residents to be aware of ticks when visiting wooded areas

John Jantak

Your Local Journal

The Village of Senneville is advising residents to take adequate precautions when visiting the Morgan Arboretum in neighbouring Ste. Anne de Bellevue to avoid being bitten by the Black Legged Tick which can transmit Lyme disease to humans and animals.

Mayor Jane Guest issued the public advisory during the Monday evening council meeting on June 22 saying there have been two reported two cases of Lyme disease from tick bites in persons who recently visited local forested areas. The village has also informed residents about the situation through notices that were delivered to homeowners within the past two weeks.

She stressed that the warning was not meant to instill any kind of panic or that citizens should avoid enjoying outdoor activities in local woodland areas. The advisory is meant to make people aware of the situation so they take the necessary precautions when venturing along the trails to avoid being bitten.

"We sent out a notice last week to all our citizens and we'll probably do it again this week just because it was brought to our attention that it is tick season and there have been local sightings," Guest told *Your Local Journal* after the meeting.

"It's not alarmist. It's just a precaution to make people aware that it's a nasty bite and you have to get treatment right away. If you don't, you could end up getting very sick. People use the local trails a lot so we just want them to be careful," said Guest.

The number of people being bitten by the Black Legged Tick, also known as the Deer Tick, has steadily increased throughout southern Quebec, particularly in certain parts of the Monteregion including Hudson and St. Lazare, as the insect continues to gain a stronger foothold throughout the region each year.

The tick is also becoming endemic in the heavily wooded areas along the westernmost regions on the Island of Montreal including Senneville and Ste. Anne.

The main symptom that commonly appears usually within three to 30 days



PHOTO BY JOHN JANTAK

Senneville Mayor Jane Guest is advising all citizens to take measures to protect themselves from being bitten by ticks when visiting the Morgan Arboretum.

after being bitten is reddening of the skin around the bite. Accompanying symptoms include fever, fatigue, headaches, neck stiffness, and muscle and joint pain.

If left untreated, Lyme disease may cause long-term heart, joint and neurological problems that can appear weeks, months or even years after being bitten by an infected tick. The Quebec Ministry of Health reported on its website that 63 cases of Lyme disease were recorded throughout the province in 2014.

The most effective precautions people should take is to cover as much exposed skin as possible by wearing pants, long-sleeved shirts and a head covering such as a hat or cap. An insect repellent should also be used on exposed skin. People should stay on the nature trails and avoid venturing into the woods because the tick can easily latch onto clothing from adjacent brush.

Guest also recommends people regularly check their pets to make sure they haven't been affected by ticks.

"It's the same thing, you have to be very careful with your pets too," said Guest. "You have to check them every time you come in from the woods and meadows to make sure they don't have ticks on them. It's just another precaution that people should take."

More information about Lyme disease can be found at the Ministry of Health website <http://sante.gouv.qc.ca/en/problemes-de-sante/maladie-de-lyme/>.

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His main production is garlic, spring greens comprising mesclun mix, spinach, French radishes, lettuce, Asian greens, and pink and cherry tomatoes. And he is a regular at the Hudson Farmers' Market at the intersection of Main and Selkirk every Thursday from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. because he really likes to connect with his customers.

Says Bernie, "When they ask me when my tomatoes or garlic will be ready, it makes me happy to see they enjoy my vegetables. I pick and wash my produce the day of the market so my vegetables are always fresh. And I'm always happy to share growing tips, recipes, and advice about how to serve them."



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Blind spot safety campaign an eye-opener

Carmen Marie Fabio

editor@yourlocaljournal.ca

The reality of what heavy vehicle operators can actually see in the periphery from the driver's seat of their vehicle was clearly illustrated June 18 in a joint sensitization operation by Pierrefonds' Station 3 and Dollard des Ormeaux Station 4 officers, and representatives from the Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec (SAAQ), Société de transport de Montréal (STM), and Transport Québec.

"This is a campaign to educate people about the blind spots," said SAAQ Public Relations Officer Mario Tremblay. "We've been working for over 25 years with heavy vehicle drivers and their responsibilities. But this campaign is to educate other road users. They don't know the truck drivers' limitations and this is why we've installed a red carpet to represent the driver's blind spots."

Held in a parking lot at Galeries des Sources in Dollard-des-Ormeaux on Brunswick Boulevard, the operation, staged annually in various locations, included both a dump truck and STM passenger bus, allowing participants to sit in the driver's seat to appreciate

the constraints on what is, and isn't, visible from the driver's vantage point. And the firsthand experience in knowing what a driver is capable of seeing is an invaluable tool in educating all road users, particularly pedestrians and cyclists.

"Fifty-five percent of the accidents involving people on bicycles happen at intersections," said Tremblay, highlighting the fact that many accidents between heavy vehicles and pedestrian/bicycle traffic occurs due to their close proximity at road junctures. The deaths of two Montreal women in April 2014 – a pedestrian crossing at Mackay and Ste. Catherine and a cyclist on St. Denis Street – occurred while they were in the drivers' blind spots.

Using bright red tarpaulins laid out around the truck's perimeter to pinpoint the specific areas that the driver can't see is what organizers want to illustrate to all road users.

While flat-nosed vehicles, including some less powerful transport trucks and city buses, have a better visual field, all are subject to limitations that pedestrians should be aware of while negotiating and sharing the roadways.

"Cyclists and pedestrians have the right-of-way," said Tremblay. "But if



PHOTO BY CARMEN MARIE FABIO

In a public sensitization operation held in DDO June 18, SAAQ Public Relations Officer Mario Tremblay (far right) illustrates the significant areas in a large vehicle operator's field of vision that becomes invisible while behind the wheel.

the driver is not able to see them, he's not able to give priority. People need to make sure they're able to see the driver's face." Tremblay recommends raising one hand in the air, giving a wave to get the truck driver's attention before crossing the road and said many people pushing strollers or confined to wheelchairs affix a bright orange flag on an extended telescopic attachment to their respective pedestrian vehicles. "We want people to realize the importance of the issue when they're around

a heavy vehicle."

Tremblay said Transports Québec conducts similar sensitization campaigns with heavy vehicle drivers and the exercise is generally well-received.

"They realize their job will be easier when road users understand the drivers' visual limitations."

For more information consult <http://www.spvm.qc.ca/en/Fiches/Details/Trucking-and-Heavy-Vehicles>. For more photos, see our Facebook page.

Letters

Continued from page 6

Conservatives don't have the monopoly on industry insider appointments

Dear Editor,

The National Energy Board is the federal agency responsible for regulating inter-provincial and international pipelines. I read recent criticism of the NEB being stacked with insiders by the Conservatives. The argument is a simplification and ignores the fact that the Chretien-Martin Liberal governments were equally responsible for industry insider appointments.

Having experts from the industry is not necessarily a bad thing but I have always said I would like to see a more balanced composition of membership on the NEB reflecting the diversity of Canadians' concerns, including our

ecology. Unfortunately, people closely linked to the industry sometimes make decisions that are not based on public interest but rather on the interests of their former employers. These individuals also do make positive contributions and I would not want to completely denigrate their work.

A case in point is Kenneth R.W. Vollman, a Liberal era appointee. Under the Chretien and Martin governments he served as NEB chair. Trained as an engineer, he began his career with Mobil Canada. One positive contribution he made was to lead an inquiry on stress cracking and corrosion in Canadian pipelines.

The current inspection protocols, including hydrostatic testing, were outlined in his 1996 report. At the same time, Vollman was responsible for the shift from prescriptive regulations to goal-based regulations regarding pipelines.

The difference between the two is this: speed limits on highways are a prescriptive regulation-if you go over the maximum speed, you can get a ticket and fine. Do it long enough and you could lose your license to drive. A goal-based regulation, on the other hand, would be to let everyone drive the way they want and let drivers vaguely define what is safe and set safety "goals" rather than have a minimum speed limit and fines. A prescriptive regulation is enforceable, a goal-based regulation is not. This was a huge favour done for the industry when this shift was made. For his contributions, Vollman is recognized in the Canadian Petroleum hall of fame (yes, such a thing does exist).

The president of the board for most of the conservative years (2007-2014) was engineer Gaetan Caron, also a

Liberal era appointee. Caron admitted that 2010's BP's Deepwater Horizon spill cast a greater spotlight on regulatory models and specifically greater demands for a polluter-pay regime.

And while on the subject of industry insiders, Justin Trudeau's Chief Of Staff, Cyrus Reporter, was a lobbyist for BP Canada and Syncrude. Perhaps this illuminates why Trudeau has not promised to bring in a polluter pays model and prefers goal based regulations from the provinces when it comes to climate change. In brief, Conservatives do not have the monopoly on industry insider appointments.

Jamie Nicholls
NDP Member of Parliament
Vaudreuil-Soulanges

Dear Editor,

Monday, June 22, 2015 was an eventful day.

In the morning, there was a funeral for former Montreal mayor, Jean Doré, who was honored and credited for democratizing City Hall. In contrast, later that day, the Pearson board held its Executive Committee Meeting, when I was again the 'public' and, now, in month 20 of a ban that forbids me to participate at Public Question Periods.

Recall what Education Minister François Blais said on May 29, on a televised news report that he was scrapping school board elections because they were "costly, useless affairs that don't help students succeed."

In reaction to that declaration, a panel, composed of English community groups, led by the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) was created to study options for Anglophones regarding the school board electoral system. It hopes to present

recommendations to the Minister in early September.

The panel claims to be a committee, interested in everyone's views, but we know the reality of the situation. It hopes to persuade Education Minister Blais to keep school board elections.

However, it is welcome because it will show that the school board system is, indeed, broken and, moreover, in today's high-tech world, it is obsolete.

Consider: On the English side, the result of the November 2014 elections with a massive media campaign, was an increase in turnout of a puny point 18 (.18) from the 2007 election.

The government, justly, says it makes no sense that commissioners in Quebec elected by so few people would control \$2 billion or about 22 percent of the education budget.

Furthermore, prior to 1998 there were no English boards. There was no QESBA, and we managed fine.

The committee will realize that the new model of school governance as proposed by Education Minister François Blais is satisfactory because it does respect minority language educational rights. There will be "representation" but not necessarily elected representatives.

The panel does not represent the Anglophone population of Quebec. Parents are more interested in managing the schools where their children attend, rather than school boards.

Moreover, Premier Philippe Couillard's promise to give schools more freedom and more autonomy will move Quebec into the 21st century for the betterment of English and French student success.

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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 28-year-old Pierrefonds man who was robbed of his money and cell phone June 18 returned to the scene of the crime with his father and was able to spot the suspect through a window of his residence, leading to his arrest. Const. Daniel Maheu reports the victim was riding the bus to his father's home around 12:57 a.m. listening to music on his cellphone. Exiting the bus and walking along Pierrefonds Boulevard, the victim saw the suspect moving quickly towards him. The

suspect, described as a 230 lb. man, standing 5-feet, 10-inches tall sporting a Mohawk haircut, grabbed the man around the neck from behind and said demanded, "Give me your money or I'll kick your ass." The victim was able to break free and call 911 while the suspect fled. Along with his father and brother, the victim returned to the scene and questioned area residents who were able to direct them to a nearby apartment building where the suspect was spotted. When police arrived, the suspect refused to open his door, leading police to tell him the residence was surrounded and that if he didn't comply, the door would be broken down. Shortly after, the 26-year-old man surrendered and confessed to the robbery.

Off Island police files

Sûreté du Québec covering the Vaudreuil-Soulanges area

A Vaudreuil-Dorion man in his early 30s suffered serious burns from a portable ambient fireplace on the balcony of his condo on Sylvio-Mantha Street June 23 around 9:30 p.m. SQ spokesman Sgt. Bruno Beaulieu said the accident happened as the victim attempted to add ethanol fuel to the unit while there was still an open flame, resulting in an explosion. A woman on the scene, also in her early 30s, suffered minor burns. The man was transported to the Centres des grand brûlés Montréal.

Police are crediting a citizen tip leading to the arrest of two teenagers

June 23 around 8:30 p.m. after they were spotted painting graffiti on the installations at a park on Morillons Street in Vaudreuil-Dorion. The two, aged 15 and 16, are residents of Pincourt and were released into their parents' custody. Sgt. Bruno said police are investigating as the graffiti tags match similar ones spotted in other areas, including Pincourt.

A police chase in St. Zotique the evening of June 24 ended up with the driver of a motorcycle being transported to hospital with serious injuries. The chase reportedly began around 9:30 p.m. when the driver failed to stop for police following a Highway Code infraction. The driver collided with another vehicle near 72nd Avenue resulting in two minor injuries of the car's occupants.

Annual SQ report shows reduction in most areas of crime in Vaudreuil-Soulanges region

Carmen Marie Fabio

editor@yourlocaljournal.ca

The Sûreté du Québec (SQ) police captains from both the Vaudreuil-Soulanges east and west detachments presented the force's annual activity report to area media Monday, June 22, and the 2014-2015 crime statistics overall are down based on a comparison with an average taken over the previous four-year reporting period.

"For the 2014-2015 period, the areas we've targeted are road safety in residential neighbourhoods and crime prevention following issues raised with the Comité de sécurité publique (CSP)," said Vaudreuil-Soulanges east Capt. Ginette Séguin. Targeted areas were defined in conjunction with the CSP, headed by Île Perrot Mayor Marc Roy, and MRC-VS Prefect and Très Saint Rédempteur Mayor Jean Lalonde.

"Last year, we took part in a number of sensitization campaigns," said Vaudreuil-Soulanges east Capt. Marc Robert of roadside and vehicular operations, "along with crowd behaviour at holiday festivities and protection of our seniors."

The report documents two-dozen operations to raise public awareness with outreach events in schools that illustrate the dangers of drinking and driving via accident simulations and addressing issues of elder abuse with the Groupe d'intervention violence aux aînés (GRIVA) at area seniors' facilities.

"The police are also implicated in certain community causes," said Robert, of the force's fundraising initiatives for cancer research and the Polar

Bear Plunge to raise funds for Special Olympics. While assault charges have diminished from 372 this period compared with a four-year average of 414, the statistics for 2013-14 report 338 cases, meaning an increase from the last period of 10 per cent.

Charges of sexual aggression are on par with last year at 55 versus 54, but show an increase over the past four-year average of 50.

"That's not necessarily because there's an aggressor," said Robert, "but rather that we've developed ways to (allow) more victims to come forward. Robert reminded those in attendance of the recent website offering guidance and resources to victims of sexual aggression CaMeConcerne.ca. Though currently in French only, the CSSS-VS has told *Your Local Journal* an English version of the site will be available this fall.

A substantial drop was seen in mischief charges from a 467 annual average over the last four years to the current 282. Further reductions were seen in arson, and theft since previous years. Though less compared to the four-year average, break and enters were up slightly since last year, as was fraud. Following a 14-month investigation, SQ officers recently arrested four suspects responsible for a province-wide string of 71 break and enters, including 21 in St. Lazare. Drug infractions have also increased from a four-year average of 425 to 460.

Following last year's annual report outlining officer training that included instruction on the use of portable defibrillators, Capt. Séguin confirmed the machines are now present in all patrol vehicles and officers have been trained



PHOTO BY CARMEN MARIE FABIO

(Left to right): MRC-VS Prefect Jean Lalonde, SQ Vaudreuil-Soulanges West Captain Marc Robert, SQ Vaudreuil-Soulanges East Captain Ginette Séguin, and Comité de sécurité publique president Marc Roy present the annual report on crime in our region.

in its use. Mayor Roy added that along with area first responders, the units are also present in a number of public facilities.

Advances in technology coupled with an ageing population mean police are seeing an increase in fraud cases, particularly the 'grandparent' fraud in which someone posing as a relative calls an elderly resident saying they need money immediately due to some emergency.

"They claim to be a grandson, saying they've been arrested and need \$4000 right away," said Roy. "We absolutely have to sensitize the older population to this type of fraud. We tell them to verify right away by calling their grandchild back to confirm the situation." Roy and Séguin both said outreach has also been made to bank employees to be vigilant of elderly customers suddenly withdrawing large sums of cash, and continued efforts are made to inform all residents that legitimate financial organizations will never ask for credit or debit card information via telephone.

COACH HOUSE AUCTIONS

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WEST ISLAND VIEW

All in all, a most fascinating week folks. Among other things and like a fly on the wall and along with many West Islanders, sat in on a blind date and couldn't stop laughing.

On a more serious note, met a young man walking from **Nova Scotia** to **Victoria, B.C.**, while raising funds and greater awareness of the importance of palliative care in memory of his father who passed away this past January after a courageous battle with cancer. And who stopped by the **West Island Palliative Care Residence in Kirkland** on Monday to be warmly welcomed by staff and volunteers alike. Oh yes, I also managed to... Ah, let's leave that for another time!

PAT ON THE BACK FOR PAT - If you have never witnessed a blind date and are intrigued as to what may transpire when two strangers meet for the very first time with a view to a possible lasting relationship - as opposed to a 'meaningful' one-night stand - then may I suggest that you pick up the phone and call the **Hudson Village Theatre Box Office** without delay.

Last Thursday, my beautiful **Sunshine** and I took in the opening night of its first show of the summer season, **Blind Date**, starring **Christy Bruce as Mimi** and, for each performance running through this Sunday, June 28, some unsuspecting guy is plucked right out of the audience to be on stage with her for 90 minutes or so for a totally unscripted, or pre-rehearsed amorous adventure that had the audience rolling in the aisles.

Stepping up to the plate, as it were, the night we were there, was **Pat O'Grady**. A long-time local, em-cee extraordinaire, blessed with the Irish gift of the gab and a smile for the ladies, and who has never been known to be at a loss for words.

He certainly proved it on stage at

HVT. Progressing from a table for two at a small intimate restaurant to dancing cheek to cheek to stripping off to his boxer shorts and slipping in to bed - albeit dressed in a robe - with his new-found 'love'.

A relationship that he would renew with Mimi over dinner on Wednesday evening - and in a strictly professional sense, of course - at the **Auberge Willow Inn** where Pat is a genial host and ambassador at large and doing an excellent job of it, I might add.

Now I'm not sure if he told Mimi, but I do have it on excellent authority that Pat was once seen in bed by many with not one, but two ladies, and both at the same time. Oh, hang on. That was in a production of the kinky British farce, **Key For Two**, staged by the **Hudson Players Club** back in 1986 with Hudsonites, **Mark Drake** and **David Clayton**, also in the cast if not in the bed.

And the names of the two ladies? That would be telling. But what the heck! Why non other than fellow cast members, **Janet Ellerbeck** and **Sue Campbell**. How do I know these things? Because Pat himself told me so don't sue the messenger! The number of the Box Office, by the way, is (450) 458-5361.

INCREDIBLE IAN - As for that young man I met, his name was Ian Bos aged 39 who set out on foot and alone from **Nova Scotia** on May 21 in his trek across **Canada** in memory of his beloved Dad, **Ted**, who passed away in January from cancer at the age of 68 and in honour of the excellent care that he received at the **Aberdeen Care Society in New Glasgow**.

Dubbed *Ian's Walk for End of Life Care*, and scheduled to last about five months, it will take him through major cities including **Fredericton, Montreal, Ottawa, Winnipeg, and Vancouver** as well as the much smaller commu-



PHOTO BY MARY D'ABRAMO

Pierrefonds resident, Joe D'Abramo, shown here with his 1968 Camaro Sport Coupe, has nothing but praise for the Hudson Car Show and its organizers.

nity of Kirkland.

And as Ian told me on Tuesday, he will long remember his visit there. "Everyone made me feel really welcome on my way to Victoria. I'm relying on the kindness of those I meet along the way to help me on this journey. For without an official sponsor or people accompanying me, I wouldn't be able to do it without the generosity and support of my fellow Canadians from coast to coast. Thank you Kirkland and the West Island."

Ian added that with the aging population and declining resources in the **Canadian Health Network**, he also hopes to draw attention to the importance of services such as those offered by the **Aberdeen Palliative Care Society** as they seek to relieve suffering while allowing people to stay at home longer despite the evolution of the disease or to benefit from a peaceful place at the end of life where they will find comfort and dignity.

Bon voyage on your journey Ian. A journey that can be followed, and donations made, on **Facebook** at www.facebook.com/ianswalk2015 or on **Twitter** at <https://twitter.com/ianswalk2015> Way to go Ian and on behalf of your new-found friends and supporters here on the West Island, please do keep me posted!

REVVING UP FOR HUDSON CAR SHOW - Meanwhile, two West Island car buffs that I know of are surely looking forward to the upcoming 5th edition of the **Hudson Car Show** that will roll into town over the **Ile aux Tourtes Bridge** on Saturday, July 4, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with exhibitors and visitors from far and wide enjoying the fabulous fun and festivities that will showcase a mindboggling display of antique, hot rods, and modified yesterday vehicles of all descriptions.

And there among them with his 1968 **Camaro Sport Coupe** will be 69 year-old **Pierrefonds** resident, **Joe D'Abramo**, who told me that he will be back again because he just loves "the picturesque little town setting, the number of cars entered are not overwhelming, and it is quite close to home."

Adds Joe, "My wife, **Mary**, will also be attending as she goes to all car shows with me. And small town venues, such as Hudson, allows her to take a break from the cars and do a little sight-seeing and shopping."

As for his prized Camaro, Joe told me that with his encouragement, his son, **Rod**, bought it in 1988 from the

original owner in **Montreal**. A few years later, when Rod started university and needed a year-round car, his Dad bought it from him and it has been in the family ever since.

Said Joe, "When purchased, the car was in original unmolested condition and that's the way I've kept it. Shortly after acquiring it, for safety and reliability reasons, I rebuilt the entire braking and front suspension system as well as the clutch and transmission. The car has never been restored and is considered a survivor as it retains its original paint, chrome, interior as well as the driveline. I go to great lengths to locate correct **GM** or aftermarket replacement parts for maintenance. Tinkering with the car is a big part of the fun of owning it"

As is showing it Joe, I'm sure, and look forward to talking to you again in Hudson.

CLIFF AND HIS CORVETTE - As I do with fellow West Island exhibitor and **Beaconsfield** resident, **Cliff Dawson**, coincidentally also 69 years of age who will be there with his 1958 **Corvette** that he bought in 1967. Even though, apparently, the car was completely in pieces and the motor wasn't running. And it went downhill from there.

Explained Cliff, "I spent two years assembling it and installing a new motor. But then it was vandalized and totally destroyed." Undaunted, he then decided to do a complete ground-up restoration over the next four years that saw everything restored to original specs, including a new motor and 4-speed transmission.

Tell you dear readers, as someone who once owned an **MGB Mark IV** that I couldn't drive in the winter, obviously, and who now steers a **Chevrolet Cruze** year round, I can only marvel at the passion and dedication of guys like Joe and Cliff - we are all the same age by the way guys - and other West Island car owners who will be in Hudson for the big day.

Both, by the way, have nothing but praise for **Georges Sauvé** and **Celine Camirand**, as well as their organizing committee and teams of volunteers for organizing and hosting the show over the years. Said Cliff, "There are nice people running it. Nice people to work with. And they show the participants that they really appreciate our participation." See you at the show and drive carefully!

And that's a wrap!

E-mail : creation@videotron.ca



PHOTO COURTESY IAN BOS

On his cross-Canada walk as a tribute to his late father, **Ted**, Ian Bos received a warm welcome at the **West Island Palliative Care Residence in Kirkland** earlier this week.



The top 4 ways to prevent summertime injuries

Summer has finally arrived in beautiful Hudson and St. Lazare, and it's time to have fun and spend time outdoors. It is an opportunity to enjoy the sunshine and all that our region has to offer. It's a time when you can go out for a walk, a swim, a bike ride, kayaking, or whatever you fancy. The weather encourages you to be active and venture outside. The only caveat with outdoor activities is the risk of injuries due to twists, turns, and falls, among other reasons. The good news is that these injuries can be easily prevented. If you want to make the most out of this summer, it's time to take the advice of your physiotherapist.

Here are some tips to ensure a safe, fun and injury-free summer:

1. Wear Protective Gear

When participating in contact sports, it is essential to wear protective gear appropriate to that activity. For example, wearing helmets, gloves, properly fitting shoes and shin pads (depending on the sport or activity) can prevent injury. At the risk of offending some people, I must stress that it is NOT OK to wear flip-flops for long walks/hikes, or to kick around a ball! Shoes with a good support will prevent many injuries.

2. Stretching Exercises

Summer presents a tempting opportunity to jump into several activities. If your muscles are deconditioned from the long winter, it's important to plan ahead. You want to eliminate muscle tears and joint injuries, all of which form a part of the 'weekend warrior syndrome'. Dynamically stretching the muscles and warming them up adequately before and after exercising can help prevent muscle aches and joint pains. Your physiotherapist will be able to advise you on the right dynamic stretching exercises to perform before and after participating in any activity.

3. Proper Body Mechanics

It's important to be careful when using equipment. Gardening tends to be a popular activity during the summer. Using a wheelbarrow to carry heavy objects is highly advisable. Your physiotherapist will

also give you great advice on how to avoid back injuries by teaching you how to use different muscle groups when lifting heavy objects.

4. Strengthen the Core

The core muscles refer to the abdominals and lower back. Core conditioning exercises can help in preventing injuries. Your physiotherapist will provide you with various exercises that can strengthen your core and prevent back, hip, and knee injuries.

There you have it! Four easy ways to prevent summertime injuries. As your physiotherapists, we want you to enjoy the activities you love without hurting yourself. If you do get injured, consult your physiotherapist without delay. The longer you wait, the longer you'll be prevented from enjoying the summer.

Submitted by *Nurhan Ecitany*,
physiotherapist, Hudson Physiotherapy
and Pain Relief
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Happy Canada Day

Rising star Matt Holubowski to headline Hudson's Canada Day celebrations

Stephanie O'Hanley

Special Contributor

He's the featured musical act at this year's Canada Day celebrations in Hudson and there's no question Matt Holubowski's star is on the rise. The 27-year-old singer-songwriter, who grew up in a house in Vaudreuil-Dorion that he describes as "the last house that ends Vaudreuil and begins Hudson," said he spent most of his childhood and adolescence in Hudson and he's attended Hudson's Canada Day celebrations for years.

"It's a great pleasure to be able to come back as a musical act," said Holubowski, whose inspirations include Patrick Watson, Dallas Green, Bob Dylan and Leonard Cohen. "I've played just about every venue in Hudson. This is one that I hadn't yet tackled."

Holubowski was one of four finalists on TVA's *La Voix III* show, the Que-

bec version of the international reality television singing competition franchise, *The Voice*.

He said during the competition former employers in Hudson and the community cheered him on. "The Willow organized an event. They had the show up on their TV in the bar... There was a lot of coverage in the local newspapers. Facebook was aflame with support from everybody that I know from the area. It was really tremendous. It was very heartfelt."

While he didn't win *La Voix*'s grand prize, a record deal and \$50,000, Holubowski said he gained "great exposure and experience."

"In my case it was more beneficial for me to not win than to win because I was able to forge my own path afterwards," Holubowski said. "I've been able to put together a nice collection of shows for the summer and other great opportunities."

Holubowski was the only finalist to land two shows at the Montreal International Jazz Festival. "I initially got the July 5 gig at Place des Arts' Cinquième Salle." When that show sold out "relatively quickly," he said the Jazz Fest gave him a second show at Metropolis on June 29.

"It's a huge compliment," said Holubowski. "It's an honour to be part of the Jazz Fest." He said he's "really excited" to perform at Metropolis, the place where he's seen his favourite bands over the years. "I must have been to the Metropolis 100 times to see every genre of music possible."

When Holubowski, who uses the pen name "Ogen," turned to Indiegogo last August to crowdfund his debut album, *Old Man*, he was "scrounging for loose change" to cover costs and "hoping to God" the 200 copies he'd printed would sell. Less than a year later he's shipped out over 6,000 al-



PHOTO BY MARK QUENNEVILLE

Honourary Hudsonite Matt Holubowski says the "La Voix effect" includes two invitations to perform at the Montreal International Jazz Festival and is looking forward to performing in Hudson for the Canada Day festivities.

bums.

Is his career skyrocketing?

"Skyrocketing is probably not a bad way to define it," Holubowski said. "The *La Voix* effect has been incredible."

Happy Canada Day!



Today, I join all Canadians in celebrating our country's birthday and looking to the future with optimism.

With such a rich and diverse country, we have much to celebrate. And by working together, we can build a fairer, more prosperous country for all.

Lysane Blanchette-Lamothe

MP Pierrefonds-Dollard
Official Opposition Critic for Immigration and Citizenship

303-3883 Saint-Jean Blvd
Dollard-des-Ormeaux (Québec)
H9G 3B9

T.: 514 624-5725



Happy Canada Day to all!

On Canada Day, we celebrate the beauty, diversity and vitality of a country where we enjoy peace, freedom and respect. Let's be proud of our values and continue working together to build on our strengths as well as on the bonds that unite us.



MARIE-CLAUDE NICHOLS
DÉPUTÉE DE VAUDREUIL

416, boulevard Harwood
Vaudreuil-Dorion (Québec) J7V 7H4

Tél. : 450 424-6666

marie-claude.nichols.vaud@assnat.qc.ca



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Vaudreuil-Dorion

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CANADA DAY!**

Happy Canada Day

Hudson rings in Canada Day in style



Hudson will be hopping this Canada Day with a series of events celebrating our national pride complete with food and activities for youngsters at Thompson Park. Hot air balloon rides showing off the picturesque village from an aerial view will be available – weather permitting.

Beginning at 3 p.m., the afternoon will be filled with great music, food and bouncy castles for the children. From 6 to 8:30 p.m. take a hot air balloon ride and enjoy the view of Hudson from above. At 7 p.m. there will be a Shakespeare performance by the Hudson Players Club. At 7:30 p.m. the highly anticipated concert by La Voix finalist Matt Holubowski will begin. This gifted singer/songwriter who hails from Hudson will be performing a free concert for all.

The day wraps up in grand style at 10 p.m. with a fireworks display.

A free shuttle service will be in place from 3 to 11 p.m. between Hudson IGA & Thompson Park.

The last shuttle will leave Thompson Park at 11 p.m.

July 1st also kicks off the Land Art

(art in nature) exhibit that runs to August 2, showcasing the works of five different artists throughout the month. A vernissage will be held the last Sunday of each artist's residency. And on August 1, the Montreal Jubilation Gospel Choir will be performing at St. Thomas Church at 8 p.m.

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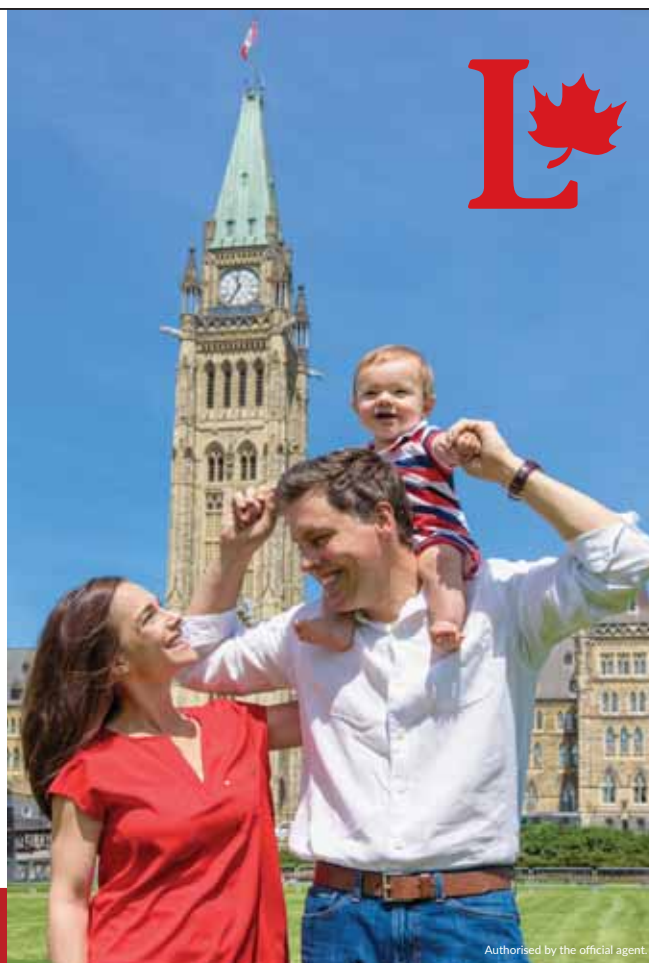
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Bonne fête du Canada!

Canada Day allows us to highlight the cultural diversity, and the vitality of this vast country that stretches between two oceans and where peace, freedom and respect for others come first.

We can be proud of our achievements as well as of our values that are perpetuated from generation to generation. Let us celebrate the strengths and the ties that unite us.

Happy Canada Day!

Lucie Charlebois

Ministre déléguée à la Réadaptation, à la Protection de la jeunesse et à la Santé publique
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Minister for Rehabilitation, Youth Protection and Public Health.
MNA for Soulanges

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- An elderly Francophone lady in **Lachine** would benefit from a female volunteer advocate to accompany on outings such as the grocery store or medical appointments. She takes adapted transport so it's not necessary to have a vehicle.
- An Anglophone woman living in **Lachine** with health problems who doesn't venture out often would appreciate a female volunteer to provide some social and emotional support through regular visits. She walks with a walker. She is a smoker and does have a cat. For more

information, please call Marla at (514) 694-5850.

- A middle-aged **Dollard des Ormeaux** woman with Parkinson's would appreciate a female volunteer advocate to accompany her on outings such as the grocery store or appointments. She is a single mother of three and is socially isolated. For more information, please call Marla at (514) 694-5850.
- An elderly British woman in **Dorval** with a number of health issues is in need of a female volunteer advocate to provide practical support such

as accompaniment on outings. For more information, please call Marla at (514) 694-5850.

- A 93-year-old lady with limited mobility, living in **Beaconsfield** is looking for a female volunteer advocate to visit her on a friendly basis. If interested please contact Tommy at (514) 694-5850.
- A 93-year-old gentleman living in **Beaconsfield** is in need of a volunteer to assist him with certain activities. The ideal volunteer could assist him with reading the newspaper and holding a discussion about

current events. The volunteer could also go on short walks with him and support him by ensuring that he is safe. For more information, please contact Tommy at (514) 694-5850

- A 70-year-old retired professor, currently living in a residence in **Dorval**, is looking for a male volunteer advocate to accompany him with some small shopping errands as well as someone, with whom he can play dominos, go to the library and play cards. If interested, please contact Tommy at (514) 694-5850.

Continued on page 25

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Home & Estate

7th forum for regional entrepreneurs and small business owners scheduled for October

John Jantak

Your Local Journal

The 7th Forum for self-employed entrepreneurs and microenterprises throughout the Vaudreuil-Soulanges region will be held on Thursday, October 22, at the Paul-Émile-Lépine Community Centre in L'Île-Perrot.

The announcement was made at a press conference on June 18 by Jeanick Mainville, Coordinator of La Communauté d'affaires de Vaudreuil-Soulanges, who told the gathering that the upcoming forum comes on the heels of last year's successful venture that saw almost 200 people participate in the day-long event.

The event has grown in stature over the years and has become an important venue where par-

ticipants can meet to promote their specialties among each other. It is also regarded by entrepreneurs as an excellent place to learn new marketing strategies and techniques, and a great way to network and make new contacts, said Mainville.

At the request of former participants, this year's forum will feature a conference that will focus on a specific theme that affects nearly all entrepreneurs. Three dynamic workshops will also be presented that will give people the tools to continue building their business and increase their customer base.

Continued on page 22

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7th forum

Continued from page 21

Specific details of the conference and workshops will be announced by the beginning of September.

The exhibition will also host companies that will provide information and advice, said Mainville. Entrepreneurs will also have the opportunity to showcase their expertise, products and services. Participants will learn strategies from other inspiring and successful entrepreneurs and will have the opportunity to network with them.

Since networking is such an important aspect of the success of any

small business, a special networking event will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. that will give all entrepreneurs the opportunity to freely sell themselves and make new contacts in a relaxed atmosphere while enjoying snacks and wine.

Representatives from several regional organizations will be participating at this year's forum including Michel Charlebois, Counselor and Coordinator for businesses at the Centre local d'emploi (CLE) de Vaudreuil-Soulanges; Dan-Rock Leclerc, Director of Business Services for Entreprises at the Caisse Desjardins de Vaudreuil-Soulanges; and Laureline Baril-Boisclair, Assistant to the Director General of Viva Media.

Leclerc said the forum has become



PHOTO BY JOHN JANTAK

Jeanick Mainville, Coordinator of La Communauté d'affaires de Vaudreuil-Soulanges, announced that this year's 7th Forum for self-employed entrepreneurs and microenterprises throughout the Vaudreuil-Soulanges region will be held on Thursday, October 22, at the Paul-Émile-Lépine Community Centre in L'Île-Perrot.

an important annual event for entre-

preneurs and small business owners in the region and the Caisse Desjardins is always willing to meet with new prospective clients to discuss new business opportunities.

The cost to participate in this year's full range of activities which includes the three workshops, a conference and lunch is \$85. Visitors can also attend just the conference and lunch for \$50. Entrepreneurs who want a lot of visibility at the event can rent their own table for \$250 which includes two free entries to the forum.

For more information, contact Jeanick Mainville from Communauté d'affaires at (450) 455-2651 or Francine St-Denis, Microenterprise Coordinator for Réseaux Emploi Entrepreneurship at (450) 424-5727, ext. 247. Online information is also available at <https://www.communauteaffaires.com/amstramgram-design>.

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Pet fair and adoption day at the Stephen F. Shaar Community Center in Hudson

A pet fair and adoption day was held at the Stephen F. Shaar Community Center in Hudson June 20 and gathered a number of regional animal rescue organizations in an effort to find homes for a few of the estimated 500,000 domestic animals abandoned in Quebec every year.

The animal abandonment situation in the greater Montreal area is severe. The Montreal SPCA alone receives anywhere between 600 to 1,600 abandoned animals per month between June and September (moving season). While many cities still rely on conventional pounds and for-profit animal control services to help control the pet population, mostly through mass euthanasia, a number of not-for-profit shelters and animal rescue organizations are slowly but gradually making headway with more progressive solutions, including more extensive rehoming of abandoned animals, trap-neuter-release programs for feral colonies, and mid to long-term sheltering of abandoned animals that can not be readily adopted. Quebec still has a long way to go according to most rescue organizations, especially when compared to the advancements made by our immediate neighbors in Ontario.

Local animal rescue celebrity Gerdy

Gouron of Gerdy's Rescues & Adoptions was present at the event with a number of her volunteers. While her group attended for adoption and public awareness-building purposes, the organization ended up going home with one more cat that was abandoned by one of the event's visitors. While rescue organizations hold regular successful adoption events, it is not uncommon for them to go back home at the end of the day with more animals than they came with.

Gouron feels that building awareness is the key. "We need more responsible people," she repeated, underlining the source cause of the proliferation of abandoned animals in our neighborhoods.

There is a pronounced need in Quebec for bylaws that don't simply serve to remove unwanted pets from our streets, but that more importantly attempt to stem the flow of abandonments and encourage residents to sterilize their pets, especially when household pets are allowed to roam outside.

Depending on which rescuer you talk to, some feel that the situation is not improving, but most will tell you that there are signs of improvements. Anthea Diamandis of Compassionate Animal Adoption, a rescue organiza-



PHOTO COURTESY JULES-PIERRE MALARTRE

Anthea Diamandis of Compassionate Animal Adoption showing off one of her rescue organization's cats up for adoption during the Hudson Animal Fair and Adoption Day June 20.

tion that has been in operation for approximately two years, feels the situation has improved, but there is still room for improvement. Compassionate Animal Adoption is a foster-based rescue organization that relies on foster homes rather than an actual shelter for cats awaiting adoption, a format that has become more popular and that reduces overhead costs normally associated with running a shelter.

The Hudson Pet Fair and Adoption Day is held twice yearly and it is picking up popularity, according to its organizer, Richard Bégin of Global Pet Foods in Hudson. Bégin feels that the attitude of the general public towards abandoned animals is changing. "We see more and more people getting into rescuing, and more people adopting out instead of purchasing pets."

Continued on page 30

COMMUNITIES IN ACTION

-- THINGS TO SEE AND DO

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.

DOLLARD DES ORMEAUX

- As part of its series of **Concerts in the Garden**, the City of Dollard-des-Ormeaux presents Vintage Wine Friday, July 3 at 7:30 p.m. at 12001 De Salaberry Boulevard. Bring your lawn chair and spend a wonderful evening listening to great songs from the 50's and 60's. Admission is free. In case of rain, the concert will be held in the Community Centre Banquet Hall. Information: (514) 684-1496.

HUDSON

- Sundays at Greenwood** offer guided tours of our historic house and gardens at 1:30 and 3:30 p.m. and on Sunday, June 28, will feature the book launch of *Sea Winter Salmon* by author Mari Harpur at 2:30 p.m. Book signing and refreshments. For reservations, call (450) 458-5396. Greenwood also offers Tours and Tea from Wednesday to Saturday between 10:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. All tours are \$10 per person and include tea and goodies. The Greenwood Centre for Living History is located at 254 Main Road. For more info, consult www.greenwood-centre-hudson.org.

- Hudson Garden Club - **Our tour of four local gardens** will be Sunday afternoon, June 28, 1 to 4 p.m., rain or shine. The printable map is available on our web site: <http://hgc.fsheq.org/calendar>. Free to members; non-members pay \$10 at first garden visited. Gardens can be visited in any order, with refreshments served between 3 and 4:30 p.m. at the designated 'Tea Garden.' No entrance to homes.

- Catch the Spirit Café, Sunday, June 28, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Saint Mary's Hall, 273 Main Road. This month we explore the spirituality of bluegrass music with *Hudson Grass & the Two Mountain Boys*. We also support Le Pont / Bridging food bank, so, a donation of non-perishable food is greatly appreciated. Café style food will be served along with tea, coffee and juice. This event is a child friendly and open to everyone. There is no entrance fee but a free-will donation to help defray costs is always welcome.

PIERREFONDS-ROXBORO

- The Sikh Vision Association of Montreal is sponsoring a **late lunch free-of-charge** for up to 200 food-insecure or homeless individuals

that live in our territory. This event will take place Saturday, June 27, from 3 to 5 p.m. at the office of On Rock Community Services, 9554 Boul Gouin Ouest. This event is a partnership with Un sac à la fois, Action Jeunesse Ouest de l'Île, Corbeille de Pain Lac-St-Louis and On Rock Community Services. The Sikh community holds this outreach annually to commemorate the Amritsar massacre of Sikhs in 1984. It is aimed at providing support, kindness and relief to the impoverished and homeless in various communities throughout the globe. All food will be provided by the Sikh community free of charge and it is open to all who are homeless or in need. For more info contact (438) 939-4400 or jmay26@hotmail.com.

POINTE CLAIRE

- Canada Day Concert - Pointe-Claire The Lakeshore Chamber Orchestra presents its annual **Canada Day Concert**, Wednesday, July 1, at 8 p.m. at St. Joachim Church, 2 Saint Anne Street. Under the direction of conductor Stewart Grant, the evening's presentation includes pieces by Edvard Grieg, Béla Bartók, Johannes Brahms, William Walton and a rousing rendition of "O Canada" by

Calixa Lavallée. For further information call (514) 426-1904 or visit www.lakeshorechamberorchestra.ca.

STE. ANNE DE BELLEVUE

- St. George's Anglican Church, 23 Perrault Ave. Ste. Anne de Bellevue, (514) 457-6934. **Summer Services** 9 a.m. July-August. Messy Church, June 25, July 22, August 26, September 23, 5-7pm includes crafts, snack and supper, for all ages. Come, join us!

Ancient memoirs

To commemorate the Hudson - Oka Ferry 100th anniversary (1909-2009), Claude Léger, son of the founder John Léger, edits a second book on the origins of the colonization and the Como Léger family roots.

This historic book will be available on June 30th at the following places:

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WICA

Continued from page 19

- A young man in his early 20s with Asperger's Syndrome, living in Beaconsfield, is in need of a volunteer to help him socialize. He loves to play Dungeons and Dragons (D&D) and would benefit from having someone to play with him. contact John at (514) 694-5850.
- We are desperately looking for male volunteers to help out in our Youth Engagement matching project, which matches volunteers with individuals with intellectual disabilities to help break their social isolation. We are looking for soccer players, coffee drinkers, chess players, etc. If you think that you can help, please call John at (514) 694-5850.
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More Classifieds on page 27...

175 - WANTED

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Garden maintenance part time person needed to look after gardens of large property. Weeding, pruning, etc. Must be reliable, experienced and hard working. No companies please. Call 514-594-2179

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200 - CAREERS/EMPLOYMENT

Customer Service Position available with E-commerce Fashion Brand in Hudson. Experience with e-mail and Facebook support. \$15.00 per hour. Full or part time. Contact: Graham 514-980-4848 / graham@holyclothing.com

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Private sale of house, Village of Hudson on Pine, 2 bedroom cottage-style house, central village, hardwood floors, 11/2 bathrooms, large lot. Asking \$279,000. Call Dwight Tobin 514-983-7164

Lot in prime location. Fairhaven Street, Hudson. 31,000 sq-feet. Percolation tests done. Tel: 450-458-5774, Cell: 514-894-2303

275 - GARAGE/MOVING SALESUS

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1992 Mercedes 300 SL convertible. 162,843 Km's ... Hardtop, new: soft top, battery, compressor A/C. 6 cd disc player, cassette player. Not winter driven, mint condition. \$15,000 Call 450-458-5995

2002 VW GOLF, Blue, Manuel transmission, 3 doors, 248,000 kms, plus 4 winter tires on rims, no rust. Great condition ! \$1,995 Call (514) 708-4854

2009 Chevrolet Malibu 2LT, grey/green, 98300 km, no Montreal winters, excellent condition, well-equipped, 6 speed transmission, great gas mileage, sunroof, leather/suede seats, \$8700. 450-458-7863

325 - AUTOS FOR SALE

1996 Honda Civic Si with multiple modifications: JDA B16A SIR II, cams, Exedy clutch, JDM ITR S80 LSD trans. w/short shift, urethane engine mounts, Sparco quick release steering wheel, Sparco seats w/Willans 4 pt. harness, Neuspeed sport springs w/Koni front shocks, frt/rear strut bars, stainless brake lines and much more. \$6500 or best offer. 514-218-2776

1999 black Honda Civic CX hatch back. Manual. 270000 km. Rusty but runs great. Many new parts incl. timing belt, wtr pump and rad. 8 rims and tires. \$1500 neg. Call Stefan after 4:00pm. 514-826-5539. or email stefanmarshall@hotmail.com

Kia Sportage LX 2009 with Convenience Package, (4WD), manual, 136,000kms, very good condition, never accidented, new 4 season tires, towing hitch inc., asking \$8,900 neg., 450-424-4308

Mazda Protégé 5, 2003, 5 doors, manual transmission, A/C, 171,000 km. Runs well. Asking \$1,675. Call 450-458-0581 (evenings), 438-822-6875 (cell)

Corvette Convertible GS only 34000km, 1990 No Accidents, No Winters, Excellent Condition, Fully Loaded with Auto A/C, Graphite Leather interior. \$17000 or best reasonable offer. 450-218-1628

2001 S Type Jaguar Black four-door fully loaded and four brand new tires. All 4 brakes have been done all around. Price \$6,800 phone number 514-996-6965.

Mercedes S550 - 2007 AMC Package. White, panoramic roof. 144,000 km. Mint condition. \$24,500. Call 514-216-9217.

Chevrolet Suburban 2010 -LT- White. Model 1500, 4x4. 60,000 km. Mint Condition, Like New. \$30,000. Call 514-216-9217.

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Mazda3 2006, 4 door, manual, sunroof, fully loaded with AC 159,000km. Includes 4 winter tires used 1 season. Asking \$ 3400. Also selling 4 summer tires with mags asking \$450. Call or text 514-690-5463.

2012 Nissan Altima 2.5 SL, Lease Take Over, 67,000 kms, Black, Leather package, 22 months remaining @ \$325/month. View on Leasebusters.com ID #140741. Call 514-220-3398

1997 Mustang Cobra SVT Triple black convertible. Price \$9,800 phone number 450-510-4494.

Mercedes CLK 320 - 1999 - Convertible, Silver. 208,000 KM. \$6,900. Call 514-216-9217.

1997 LINCOLN MARK VIII - "The last pretty Lincoln", 158,000 km, summer tires on nearly new original mags, winter tires on old mags, 2 door, Intech Aluminum 4.6 litre 4-cam, 32 valve V8, 280 hp, 4 speed automatic, colour teal metallic \$2,500. Tel: 450-458-5541

Ford Ranger 1998 Black. 298,000kms, good condition, 2 sets of tires, (4 X 4 not working). \$1750 or best offer. 450-458-7906

YLJ Around the world



PHOTO COURTESY CARLO PERUCH
Carlo Peruch shown here taking some time out from a busy trip to San Diego, California, gets caught up on all the news in the Vaudreuil-Soulanges region with *Your Local Journal*.

For a quiet neighborhood

A new article of the Public nuisance bylaw now regulates the operation hours for power tools such as lawn mowers and tractors, weed eaters, chain saws, leaf blowers, etc.

The operation of power tools can only occur during the following:

- Monday through Friday between 7 a.m. and 9 p.m.
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Comptoir St-Denis Inc. introduces three new environmentally-friendly collections of countertops



Lauren Mitchell
Special contributor

Comptoir St-Denis turns 30 years old this year, having been founded in 1985. The company specializes in the fabrication and installation of solid surfaces, quartz and granite for kitchen and bathroom counters. They also offer laminated and moulded products and provide measurement and installation services, both for residential and commercial areas. Located at 2480 Henry-Ford, Vaudreuil-Dorion, Comptoirs St-Denis also serves the greater Montreal region, Ontario and the U.S.

The company offers personalized services to their clients, and strides to ensure quality work and is constantly working to bring in new products and different style choices. Comptoir St-Denis has introduced three new environmentally friendly collections called GEO, ECO, and EOS.

GEO is a product made of both post-consumer and industrial used glass, in

which customers have 10 different style choices to choose from. ECO, by Consentino, is a hard and durable surface made of 75% post-consumer and post-industrial recycled content. The surface is made of residual materials such as glass, porcelain; mirror and industrial vitrified ashes, but also includes organic components of corn oil and stone fragments. There are also 10 different designs to choose from. Another newly added product with 28 colour choices is EOS, a countertop surface significantly thicker than the competitors' products.

On top of adding new products, they have also introduced new modern coloured choices in quartz and solid surfaces. In the quartz countertops, the Ceasarstone line has introduced eight new colours, and the Zodiaq line has four new colours. There are also more choices in the solid surfaces, adding more than 20 vibrant choices in the Corian and the Formica collections.

For more information about Comptoir St-Denis Inc., call the store at (450) 455-1120 or visit their website at www.comptoirst-denis.com/.

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Family Fun Day 2015 at Plaza Pointe Claire

Lauren Mitchell

Special contributor

Under a perfect blue sky, Plaza Pointe Claire shopping centre hosted its inaugural 'Family Fun Day 2015' Saturday, June 20, where multiple free activities for all age groups were held to celebrate Father's Day. Members of city council made an appearance including Mayor Morris Trudeau, and Councillor Cynthia Homan who spoke about her love for the plaza and the city.

"I hope you've had a terrific time. I was here earlier and the kids were having a terrific time, the music was amazing, and we are so excited for this very first event and we hope that we will have many more to come," said Homan. "This is my absolute favourite shopping plaza to come to, I think from the very first day that I came to Pointe Claire in 1978, and I try to do all of my shopping here. I encourage all of you to support our local merchants in all

of our villages, whether here in Pointe-Claire or Valois because without them we are not going to have our community environment that we have."

Children were treated to a wide assortment of inflatable bouncy activities and a face-painter, transforming them into superheroes, butterflies, or anything else they could possibly imagine. Kids also got a chance to ride a pony.

Scotti Muscle Cars, Lamborghini Montreal, East Coast Carz, and Autorama Montreal were the sponsors involved in displaying vintage vehicles including Mustangs, Cadillacs, Corvettes and Chevrolets for the Father's Day Car Show. Flora International Atelier had their grand opening on the same day, and gave the audience at Family Fun Day a small fashion show. Multiple local bands played live music throughout the night, such as Third Reflex, Get Lucky, and Nasty Habits. Solo artists as Sammie Libman and

Steven Abadi got their shot to sing live on stage.

Plaza Pointe-Claire is located at 269 Boul. St-Jean, Pointe-Claire. To contact the shopping mall, please call (514)

694-591 or visit their website at <http://www.plazapointeclaire.com/>. To see photos of this event, check our Facebook page.

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The English Gardener

Hudson Garden Tour set for June 28



PHOTO BY GREG JONES

James Parry
Your Local Journal

We gardeners sure are a diverse and disparate – and no that's not a typo – bunch, aren't we?

I mean, some of us obsess over lawns. Digging out every single *Dandelion* as through their life depended on it. Which it never does, of course. And there they are the next year doing exactly the same darn thing having missed some roots

or being plagued by seeds wafted in the air from neighbours' gardens.

As for me, as long as it's green complete with *Clover*, *Moss*, *Ajuga*, and even the occasional *Plantain*, I'm happy. In fact, a fellow gardener and avid golfer I know happened to be passing the house when I was mowing on Saturday, and he commented that it was in better shape than the fairways and greens at Chambers Bay, Washington, where the U.S. Open was underway. There again, he also has a wicked sense of humour!

Then there are those who love straight-line flower beds. Others

curved. Some love growing flowers but will never bring a bouquet of them into the house because they might harbour ants or other nasty bugs. Some whack down their perennials in the fall. Others leave them to possibly provide seed for birds. Some love statues. Others can't abide them. There are those who hate crows cawing around their garden. As I learned this past weekend, some gardeners are actually feeding them. Go figure!

All of which is to say that, while different in our priorities and individual tastes, what we all do have in common, is that we just love gardening. Beautifying the exterior 'rooms' of our home to be enjoyed not only by oneself, but also friends and visitors alike.

Which brings me to the Hudson Garden Club's annual Garden Tour being staged on Sunday, June 28 from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. rain or shine that will see four properties showcased and each different in its own way.

Lynda Gilmeister's, at 138 Charleswood, for example, contains a natural looking stream that tumbles across the width of the back garden. High above the Viviry River, it has sun-loving and water flowers in abundance. While a shady nook with an overview of the stream and pond is but one of several places to sit and survey the beauty of the garden.

At 38 1 Main, Madeleine Léger's home features a large secluded flower garden with beds for shade and sun, some of which surround a pond with

a small waterfall. Very delicate flowers and water lilies form the foreground of the view from the patio, looking out across a spacious lawn. There's also a surprising overview of a wide sitting area down beside a bend in the Viviry River.

Charming, well arranged, and taking full advantage of its interesting site, the garden of Janine Léger at 358 Woodcroft is set on a wooded hillside with shade-loving plants among the trees. It also overlooks a stream and the overall result is a beautiful reflection of the owners' effort to create a lovely private haven to enjoy.

In St. Lazare, at 2537 rue de la Symphonie, owners Christina and Pierre Lawn will be hosting the Tea Garden where Pierre will be serving his 'third wave coffee with latté art' and Christina floral-themed refreshments between 3 and 4:30 p.m. Their garden is a collection of perennials, trees, and some fruit-bearing plants, and features many small sculptures and artwork that remind them of adventures they have had and people they have met.

While there is no charge for HGC members, the fee for non-members is \$10 which can be paid at the first garden visited where volunteers will be there to welcome them. Gardens can be visited in any order, high heels are not permitted, and there will be no entry to the homes. For more info, and to see a map of the tour, go to the HGC website at hgc.fsheq.net. And enjoy the tour!

Meanwhile, have fun in your own garden. And watch out for those skeeters!

E-mail: creation@videotron.ca



PHOTO BY JAMES PARRY

Some gardeners love statues, others believe they belong in a museum.

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Pet Fair

Continued from page 23

Bégin mentions. "There are also stores sending the right message by offering rescued animals from organizations like Animatch instead of animals coming from breeders."

While mass euthanasia of feral animals may appear as the simple solution to the problem, no amount of euthanasia will help eliminate the source causes of the problem — abandonment by irresponsible animal owners and allowing unneutered animals to roam free outside.

There are a number of animal rescue groups in the area with both young and adult domestic animals ready for rehoming. Adopting an animal from a shelter is not only the right thing to do; it is also the smart thing to do since it

helps control overpopulation of abandoned animal. Most rescue organizations will also make sure that the animals they have for adoption have been checked by a veterinarian. Shelters will also work with you to find the perfect domestic animal for your household, whether you have children or other animals already living under your roof or not.

Contact info for some of the animal rescue organizations present at the event: Animatch (animatch.ca), Gerdy's Rescues & Adoptions (gerdys-rescue.org), SPCA Montréal (www.spcamontreal.org), and Compassionate Animal Adoption (www.caarecure.com). Other rescue organizations in the area also include the SPCA Ouest de l'île (www.spcaoouest.ca) and CASCA (www.casca.org) for the rest of Vaudreuil-Soulanges.



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